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THE TIMES

No. 65,839

MONDAY MARCH 17 1997

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TODAY 10P

Major to call May 1 election today

Presidential style for marathon campaign

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR will announce today that the General Election is on May 1 and pave the way for a marathon campaign that he hopes will turn round the biggest deficit ever faced by a governing party as it goes to the polls.

Cabinet ministers have been summoned to Downing Street to be told of the Prime Minister's plans this morning. Then he will go to Buckingham Palace to ask the Queen for a dissolution of Parliament, probably early in April, before telling the country from the steps of Number 10 that he is about to seek a fifth successive Conservative term of office.

The contest will begin immediately, with Mr Major staging a series of media interviews. He is then expected to travel to the first of his meet-the-people meetings, in the Home Counties. Ministers will maintain the momentum with more policy announcements, including one today from Ian Lang, the Board of Trade president, that he wants to raise £1 billion by selling off the airwaves used by mobile telephones and radio-pagers.

The campaign, almost certainly the longest in political history, will be the first in Britain to include a head-to-head television debate between the two main party leaders.

Mr Major made clear at the weekend that he was ready to break with tradition and go ahead and Tony Blair declared his enthusiasm for the idea. The move confirmed that this will be the most presidential-style election ever staged in Britain. In spite of the threat of a legal challenge from Paddy Ashdown, there were strong indications last night that it would go ahead.

Mr Major was reported to be upbeat now the moment of truth had arrived and he was able to end the speculation. Remaining business will be pushed through the Commons over the next 10 days before the Easter break, after which MPs will go to the constituencies to do battle.

Mr Major's face-to-face debate call was the first important initiative of the campaign and provoked its first serious row, with the Conservatives insisting that Mr Ashdown should not be able to take part and the Liberal Democrat leader threatening action in the courts to block any programme if he was excluded.

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In previous elections Mr Major's move would have been seen as a gamble, giving his main opponent a chance to strike a knockout blow. But lagging so far behind in the polls, Mr Major has little to lose and has seized the opportunity to take on Mr Blair.

He wants himself and Mr Blair to be able to interrogate each other, as well as taking questions from a panel of pundits and academics. A source close to him said yesterday: "He reckons the media have given Blair an easy time. He wants to have a go himself."

The Blair camp retorted: "The Tories are arrogantly claiming that Major will wipe the floor with Blair. Where have they been for the past few years?" In spite of the acknowledged difficulty of accommodating Mr Ashdown, most senior politicians were confident that a debate, or more likely two, would take place.

Although the Liberal Democrats do not like the idea, it is possible that Mr Ashdown would be interviewed separately during the middle of any debate so he would be given air time.

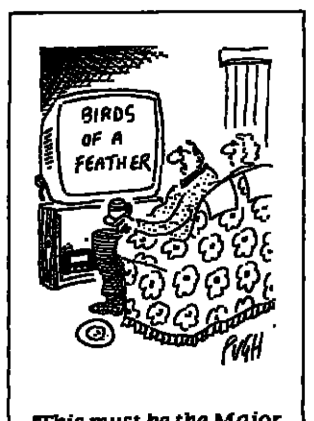
The Conservatives are opposed to Mr Major being taken on both by Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown. Brian Mawhinney, who decided the debating conditions with Mr Major during a late-night meeting at a hotel near Bath on Friday, said Mr Major wanted a "prime ministerial" debate between the two potential occupants of 10 Downing Street.

"People should have the opportunity to hear and listen to those two men being rigorously cross-examined and discussing the issues between themselves, because one or other of them will be prime minister at the end of the election. Mr Ashdown won't," he told BBC TV's *On the Record*.

He acknowledged the Liberal Democrat leader's "legitimate" demands to get his views across, but said he was "confident" broadcasters would be able to find a way for the Major-Blair debate to go ahead.

Mr Blair said: "We have of course been pressing for months and months for such a debate, so obviously we welcome this, assuming that it is a serious offer. I am perfectly happy with the idea of a debate between the Prime Minister and myself, which is why we have been pressing for it." He said it was for the broadcasters to work out whether or not the other parties needed to be represented.

Mr Major hopes the election announcement will instil the discipline into his party that it has so badly lacked in the last few years. There was another squall yesterday when West Midlands Tories indicated that they wanted to make immigration an election issue in apparent open defiance of the wishes of the party leadership. They plan to meet this week to work out an agreed response to what they see as Labour's plans to weaken Britain's immigration laws.



"This must be the Major Blair debate everyone's talking about"

PHIL CADMAN

John Major snatches his final moments of pre-election relaxation at his home yesterday

BBC moves to accept terms on TV debate

By Jill Sherman and Carol Midgley

THE BBC last night appeared to be edging towards a deal with the Conservative Party over a televised debate between John Major and Tony Blair.

After frantic discussions between four TV channels and the three main parties yesterday, there were signs that the BBC was prepared to accept many of the terms which Mr Major wanted. The Prime Minister demanded there should be no public audience; Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader should not be allowed to participate; and that Mr Blair and Mr Major should be allowed to cross-question each other.

Early yesterday the broadcasting organisations signalled that it would be difficult to exclude Mr Ashdown from any TV debate due to broadcasting guidelines which call for impartiality. By the evening, however, the BBC appeared to take a much softer stance, hinting that there might be a way of giving Mr Ashdown a slot after the debate took place.

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC, said : "We are in uncharted territory and the rules will have to be worked out carefully and, as far as they can be, able to withstand legal challenge."

Both Labour and Tory sources also suggested that the BBC were desperate to strike a deal before ITV came up with an acceptable proposal. The BBC, ITV, Sky and the independent producers of Breakfast With Frost, Paradine Productions, were formulating rival offers. ITV's bid is understood to be a Major-Blair debate with a break in the middle in which Mr Ashdown would be interviewed. This is thought to have been rejected by Mr Ashdown.

The BBC's proposal is to have three separate debates featuring Mr Major and Mr Blair, Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown, and Mr Major and Mr Ashdown. It has no objections to the absence of a studio audience.

Sky is said to have suggested having the single Major-Blair debate but following it up with a three way debate involving Mr Ashdown. Sir David Frost's company has suggested featuring all three leaders but allocating less time to Mr Ashdown.

One possible outcome is that the broadcasters would follow the US example, screening the debate on all channels simultaneously. Alternatively, the debates could be staged in turn by different channels and the recorded highlights be made available to the others.

An aide to Mr Blair made clear that Labour favoured the option in which Mr Ashdown would be interviewed in the middle of the main debate instead of being part of it. The party also called for audience participation, with the audience being allowed to ask questions and take make their views heard.

The Liberal Democrats said they would agree to a three-way debate between the three leaders, or three separate debates.They conceded that the two debates with Mr Ashdown could be shorter than the one between the two main leaders.

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NatWest faces inquiry pressure

Criminal investigators and civil City watchdogs will come under mounting pressure this week to launch formal investigations into the £90 million "blackhole" uncovered at the investment banking arm of NatWest two weeks ago .... Page 48

Thousands in Brussels protest

The pain of the Continent's unemployment spilled on to the streets of Brussels yesterday when tens of thousands marched in protest at the European Union's failure to protect jobs in the face of the free market...............Page 14

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Europe ready to send token force to Albania

By Charles Bremner in Apeldoorn and Michael Evans

THE European Union held back yesterday from any large-scale intervention in Albania, agreeing only to offer a team of civil and military advisers.

An advance team of officials will leave for Tirana today to prepare for the advisory mission, whose aim will be to help with building up Albania's police and military infrastructure.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, meeting his European counterparts at Apeldoorn in The Netherlands, said the number of advisers would be "dozens", not hundreds.

The 15 ministers were divided, with some favouring military intervention to restore order and others who backed a more modest approach.

Despite pressure from Italy and France to send a military peacekeeping force of up to 3,000 troops to secure Tirana airport, government buildings and foreign embassies, Britain, Germany and Sweden insisted on only a limited EU mission.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, warned that Europe could not get involved "in another adventure". Yugoslavia had been a lesson for the EU, he said.

The ministers had met after a request by the Albanian Government for troops to restore order, and a suggestion by Franz Vranitzky, the former Austrian Chancellor who headed a team sent to Albania by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, that troops and police be sent in to quell the violence.

In London, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said there were no plans to send troops. Speaking on GMTV's *Sunday Programme*, he said: "I am not in a hurry to offer up new targets for these irresponsible people."

The Foreign Office reported that 40 Britons still remained in Albania, about 15 of whom were unaccounted for. But some of them may have left without reporting to the British Embassy, the Foreign Office said.

As the foreign ministers met in Apeldoorn, American Marines stormed out of CH53 Super Stallion helicopters onto Golem Beach six miles south of the Albanian port of Durres to rescue American, Turkish and Italian citizens from the continuing anarchy.

Two Sea Stallions lifted foreign nationals out to safety on ships standing by in the Adriatic. The Marines, who carried automatic rifles, anti-tank weapons and night-vision goggles, used rifle butts to beat off Albanians trying to board the aircraft to escape anarchy.

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Leading article, page 21

Cameras net snooze view of the world

By Nick Nuttall and Michael Horsnell

LIVE action from the centre of Britain's oldest recorded town is being secretly relayed to a potential audience of 77 million surfers of the Internet around the globe.

Anyone with a computer may now thrill to the footage of shoppers, delivery vans, the occasional drunk, wandering cat and patrolling police officer in Trinity Square, Colchester. The development is the latest and, some say, the least sparkling, aspect of a growing pastime of computer voyeurism.

Cameras are being aimed at waters in California, Brazilian beaches and the slopes of ski resorts so that visitors can check out the surf, see if the beach is packed, or whether the snow looks good. It also allows them to watch another world go by.

Some of these private cameras, dubbed windows on the world, are showing bizarre live footage ranging from a busy traffic intersection in New York city, an ant hill, people reclining in their living rooms, and even somebody's lavatory in America.

While some feel these sites hold a strange fascination, others dismiss them as the high tech equivalent of the denstist's aquarium.

This weekend citizens thronging the north Essex

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Colchester: the way it looks to surfers

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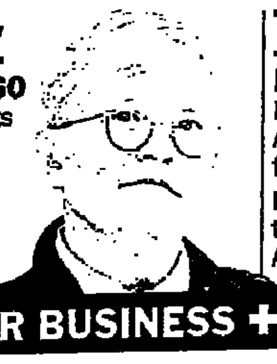
William Rees-Mogg
and Ballot 97:
Transport

Tomorrow
MEN ONLY
Alexander Stuart on dangerous liaisons
Laurie Taylor on academic Don Juans

Wednesday
HOCKNEY AT 60
Richard Cork meets the first man of British art
Plus: guide to the summer's top 50 festivals



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Norman Stone on Albert Speer's false remorse
Derwent May on the letters of Arthur Ransome

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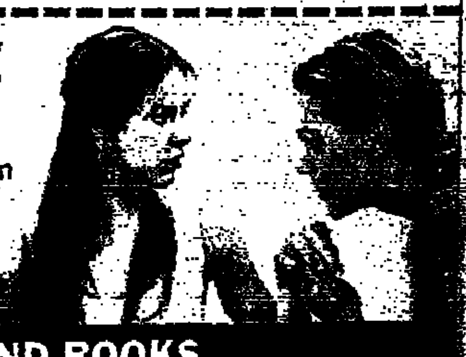
POP
Alan Jackson meets a Baywatch babe turned country star

Saturday
LEONARDO DI CAPRIO
Giles Whittell on a Romeo for the MTV generation in *The Magazine*



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Major's new battle cry will say that Europe isn't working

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories are to launch a new Eurosceptic strategy based on the theme "Europe isn't working" as a key element of their election campaign.

After a fierce battle with Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, the Prime Minister has won their backing for a campaign to contrast rising unemployment and higher spending on the Continent with Britain's improving economic record.

At a meeting last month, the Chancellor and the Deputy Prime Minister ruled out any campaign which could be construed as overtly anti-European. Mr Clarke in particular opposed advertisements which portrayed Labour as the pro-European party and the Tories as more sceptical. He is said to have dug his heels in over certain slogans which were to have appeared on the ill-fated lion posters, such as "Euro Labour, Euro taxes" or "Euro Labour, Euro job losses".

But after a heated debate, he agreed to a compromise strategy in which the Tories could focus on key areas where Britain has been more successful than Europe, and highlight the danger of Labour adopting specific European policies which could ruin it all. One party source argued that significant progress had been made at the meeting: "Six months ago, Clarke and Heseltine would just not have agreed even to pinpointing unemployment or spending in Europe."

When the latest British unemployment figures are announced on Wednesday, ministers will also point to the dramatic rise in unemployment in Germany over the past six months. They will pepper speeches with the fact that the average level of unemployment across the Continent is higher than Britain, and that if public spending levels in Europe were translated to Britain every family would pay £2,300 extra in taxes. The extra tax burden is calculated on the premise that spending on the Continent is on average 50 per cent of GDP whereas in Britain it is nearer 40 per cent of GDP.

Senior Tories will then suggest that once Labour adopts the Social Chapter and the national minimum wage, which has been introduced by most European countries, the number of jobless in this country will soar. They will also highlight Tony Blair's inexperience as a negotiator when it comes to settling the inter-governmental conference in Amsterdam, and suggest that he will be unable to stand up to the other nations.

Although Mr Clarke and Mr Major have agreed to focus on the domestic economy this week, strategists do not rule out new advertisements on Europe once the official election campaign starts. They are still confident that the Eurosceptic card will be a vote-winner, and are anxious to ensure that the new theme becomes a constant feature of campaign speeches and press conferences.

Party advisers also concede that the Tories can no longer gain any electoral advantage over sceptical line on a single currency, because Labour's position is almost identical to their own. Mr Clarke has prevented Mr Major from hardening the position to rule out a single currency, and the "wait and see" approach will now be held through the election campaign.

Tories point to jobs record

ALMOST alone among her major European partners, Britain can point to an exemplary record in tackling rising unemployment, say ministers. The jobless rate of 6.5 per cent is among the lowest in Europe — on a par with The Netherlands and Denmark.

The figure in Germany leapt last month to 4.8 million. In February 120,000 Germans lost their jobs bringing the unemployment rate to 12.5 per cent. France has a similarly high level of unemployment — 12.4 per cent, with Spain at 22.2 per cent.

HUW EVANS

Heads I win: Alan Howarth, the Labour candidate, in Newport East yesterday

Defector Howarth is selected for safe Labour seat

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALAN HOWARTH, the MP who defected from the Conservatives to Labour, was yesterday the clear winner of a selection contest for the candidacy of the safe Labour seat of Newport East.

Mr Howarth, currently MP for Stratford on Avon, a safe Conservative seat, won more than 50 per cent of the vote after a crowded hustings meeting in Newport yesterday afternoon. The former Tory junior education minister, who joined Labour on the eve of the 1995 Tory conference, yesterday won 141 votes, against Reg Kelly, a local candidate, who gained 58 votes and Bryan Davies, the Labour frontbencher, with 49.

Mr Howarth, who failed to be selected for Wythenshawe, last year, was put on a shortlist of four after Roy Hughes, the sitting MP, decided last month to retire. Mr Davies's current seat of Oldham Central & Royton is disappearing under boundary changes.

A delighted Mr Howarth, 52, said last night that the result was "beyond his wildest dreams". He said that he had talked to most of the 400 constituency members either on the telephone, or face-to-face raising the issues of social injustice and division.

"I came to the Labour Party because I was angry and ashamed of so many of the things taking place in this country — the widening inequality, the deepening poverty and the neglect of public services like health and education. There are millions of people who share that anger and will be moving across to support Tony Blair, new Labour and the first-rate team of shadow ministers ready to start the long and difficult task of turning things around," Mr Howarth said.

Mr Blair hailed Mr Howarth's win as a "quite brilliant" result. "I believe today's decision is one of the most significant events in the three years since I became leader, because it really does show that the changes in our party go deep," Mr Blair said. "I am really pleased for Alan. He is a courageous and talented man."

Yesterday Ron Davies, the Shadow Welsh secretary, denied any suggestion that Mr Howarth had been "parachuted" into south Wales, a rock-solid Labour heartland. "Today's selection has been perfectly fair and perfectly democratic," said Mr Davies.

The attention will now focus on Bryan Davies. Efforts will be made to find a seat for him before polling day. Once the campaign has started the Labour leadership is entitled to impose a candidate.

It has been rumoured that Derek Foster, MP for Bishop Auckland, might retire and be given a seat in the Lords, and that Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse, the Deputy Speaker, will announce his retirement from his Pontefract and Castleford seat. At least one other MP is considering standing down before the imminent general election.

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Surfers net snooze view of the world

Continued from page 1

garrison town were less than sure they wanted to be beamed around the world from the camera in Pelhams Lane.

Tom Hunter, 62, a caretaker from Colchester, said: "Nobody should be subjected to this sort of thing unless they are asked first."

But Gilbert Morapedi, 32, who is taking a Ph.D in the agrarian history of Bostwana at the University of Essex, disagreed. He said: "The view is not private because this is a public thoroughfare. But I can think of better things to watch."

The camera has been set up as a pilot project by Actual Size Internet Solutions of Brightlingsea, Essex, at the office of their strategic partners, Aspects Internet Access. Jamie Clary, managing director of Action Size, said: "Anyone with time to kill would want to look in on Colchester . . . it is like sitting in a street café watching the world go by."

Phil Pfistever of EarthCam, a company based in Hackensack, New Jersey, which is monitoring the development of so-called Street or Web Cams said there were now thousands of private cameras relaying live images. They raised the possibility of "pirate" broadcasts from major sporting events, such as Wimbledon, or they could be used to keep an eye on the babysitter from the office.

Recently BT pulled the plug on one camera permanently showing footage of a Cabinet minister's house. Pornographic "keyholes" would would also be banned, said BT.

Students will be told to expect tuition fees

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRISTOL University will warn students starting degree courses from 1998 that it may charge for tuition fees at any stage during their studies.

Nearly 20 leading universities agreed before Christmas to give early warning of a possible charge next year to avoid the possibility of legal action by students who applied for places thinking that tuition would be free. All but six have changed their minds.

Bristol will join Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and Nottingham Universities and the London School of Economics in a breakaway group. Other apparent enthusiasts for "top-up" fees, such as University College London, have decided to put off any change until 1999.

Sir John Kingman, Bristol's Vice-Chancellor, has written to head teachers and principals of sixth-form colleges explaining that the introduction of fees may be necessary to preserve the university's quality. However, Sir John added: "I stress that we have made no decision to charge such a fee, but present uncertainties in the funding of higher education have caused the Council of the University to decide that it would be failing in its duty if it did not take precautionary measures." A final decision will be taken in the autumn, when government spending priorities become clear.

Existing plans, which Labour has said it will honour if it wins the election, allow for a reduction of 7.5 per cent in state funding for each student over the next three years. Although last year's Budget restored some of the cuts in university spending, Sir John said that government support for higher education would drop by £263 million by 1999-2000.

Other universities are wary of threatening fees, however, in case they frighten off prospective students. Some believe that a Labour government would ensure that they did not profit from ending free tuition. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, has raised the prospect of reducing the grants of universities that introduce fees.

Some universities, such as Sheffield and Kent, have reversed their plans after drafting prospectuses that included a warning of possible fees. Students on both campuses have claimed that their protests brought about a change of heart.

The National Union of Students has promised publicity campaigns against universities that do not rule out fees for next year. A spokeswoman said the union was still engaged in talks with the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, discussing alternative sources of funding, but would ensure that potential applicants were aware of where there was a threat of fees.

Most vice-chancellors are pinning their hopes on Sir Ron Dearing's review of higher education to persuade a new government to make up the funding gap. Both Labour and the Conservatives oppose top-up fees, but have made it clear that students will be expected to make some contribution towards the cost of higher education in future.

Labour warns of schools cash crisis

LABOUR will claim today that one local authority in three will have less money to spend on schools in the new financial year, even before allowing for inflation and rising numbers of pupils (John O'Leary writes).

A survey of the 132 education authorities suggests that state schools will receive almost almost £100 million less in 1997-98 if councillors stick to the Government's spending plans. Metropolitan areas and the new unitary authorities will be hardest hit. Labour's calculations compare estimates of the current year's spending with the plans in the last Budget. In practice, because local authorities set their own priorities, spending is certain to exceed the Government's allocation.

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They are such different men — Blair is a barrister, Major a life insurance salesman

Television debate is all about looks, not about words

Matthew Parris looks forward to a talent night on television

It's the format, stupid. Who gains the advantage in any televised head-to-head between John Major and Tony Blair depends critically on the setting.

These are such different men. Each possesses what the other lacks. The format best designed to John Major's strengths will be poorly suited to Tony Blair's personal style; and the best catwalk for Mr Blair the worst for Mr Major. Tony Blair is a barrister and John Major is a life insurance salesman.

Do not be fooled by the Labour leader's informality; it is a device. His instinct is to project and he projects with skill and charm. In any gathering, Blair's undertone and body language are not to draw others around as equals, or invite dialogue: it is to step back, put a little distance between himself and the crowd and address them as an audience. This is not a style which sips brandy with you.

Blair is careful not to hector and is never pompous, but there is always an invisible row of footlights in front of him. He can prosecute or defend and excels at both, but what he cannot do is pass the time of day. This is the actor to play the Messiah or Lucifer, Iago or Othello, Don Carlos or the Grand Inquisitor.

So long as Mr Blair retains his command, he is almost invincible. His ability to project a vision — to inspire — is formidable.

His vulnerabilities are of a different kind. There are three. When the first squashed tomato hits the Armani suit or the first irreverent giggle interrupts from the back, or when he trips, Mr Blair will be in uncharted water.

Second, though quick and articulate he sometimes lacks (as professional advocates often do) the security which comes from a real grasp of one's case, and intellectual confidence to it. A format which places him — so to speak — in an Oxbridge tutor's book-lined study, defending an essay which was perhaps slightly too hastily cobbled together, could have him sweating. Third, like many great orators, he is well displayed at 30 yards. An impertinent camera-shot on the perspiring brow, the defensive glance or the nervous mouth, could unsettle viewers.

Were I negotiating this broadcast on Tony Blair's behalf, I would want him standing up, in a good-sized studio, some distance from a herd of questioners, "chairing" himself, and calling each to put their question.

The more questioners, the better: I would suggest a dozen or more. I would resist the idea that Mr Major be allowed to cross-question him directly.

A very different format would suit the Prime Minister. As a performer, Mr Major operates in two such different modes that he can almost seem to be two separate people.. He can chat with us, or he can address us. He is superlative at chatting. At addressing people he is abysmal. Where I would hire Tony Blair to address and motivate my insurance salesmen's conference, it is Mr Major I would put on the doorstep with the life policies themselves.

Locked into a detailed and constructive discussion about any plan for action, John Major comes across as confident, deft, knowledgeable and pleasant.

He possesses the persuasive, man-to-man skills of any great counsellor (or, indeed, confidence trickster). He is seen to best advantage leaning — actually or metaphorically — towards you, drawing you in. It is an intimate manner which breathes conviction.

But set him apart from his audience — place him, blinking, in the footlights — make it "me" versus "them", and the Prime Minister fails either to project or to defend himself convincingly from attack. Projecting, he becomes wooden. Defending, he sounds aggrieved. His throat tightens and his voice rises to an angry drone, like a distant chainsaw.

Thrown on to the back foot, John Major's face freezes and he becomes unable to smile, relax, or even to show real anger. He begins to look like a man who will not own up.

Were I negotiating this head-to-head on John Major's behalf, there would be no stage, no herd and no studio. The encounter would take place in scholarly circumstances of quiet hospitality and I should want no more than three or four questioners.

Major would be seated within a yard of Blair and amongst, not in front of, the questioners. All would be in armchairs, nobody enjoying any special furniture or pride of place. The ambience would be that of coffee in the library, after dinner: reasonable men and women trying to sort out difficult matters.

And I should insist that Major be permitted to put direct questions himself to Blair. Major's tone would be relentlessly affable. He would simply ignore finger-wagging or censorious behaviour from Blair as though above it, his attitude that of a senior colleague, trying (without patronising) to explain to a rather chippy junior that things were not as simple as he supposed. If John Major could carry that armchair in his imagination, and address us from it regardless of his real surroundings, he will always carry conviction. And so long as Tony Blair can feel that spotlight and see that audience, he will give his best, even from an armchair.

❛Major can chat with us, or he can address us. He is superlative at chatting. At addressing he is abysmal❜

❛Blair can prosecute or defend and excels at both, but what he cannot do is pass the time of day❜

Pitfalls line the American way

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

IT IS 37 years since Richard Nixon lost the first televised presidential debate in American history, but his performance has haunted candidates for the White House ever since.

While British politicians are more accustomed to the challenges of parliamentary questions, the risks of presidential-style televised debate are manifold. The American techniques are certain to be under the closest scutiny by John Major, Tony Blair and their image consultants.

The 1960 studio exchange between Mr Nixon and John Kennedy, viewed by 70 million Americans, not merely defined every future campaign but offered television an unprecedented opportunity to create a lasting perception of the candidate. In stark contrast to his sun-tanned and relaxed Democratic opponent, a pallid Mr Nixon appeared on the set eight pounds underweight from a stay in hospital and perspiring heavily under the studio lights. His make-up barely concealing the shadow of a beard, which led one wit to dub him Lazy Shave, the Nixon package contributed to an overall impression of the Republican as sinister and shifty-eyed.

To make matters worse, Mr Nixon had injured his knee as he stepped from the limousine, forcing him to shift weight to minimise the pain. As he leaned forward on the podium, the ill-fitting grey suit which blended with the backdrop, fell forward on one shoulder. He glanced repeatedly at a clock off stage.

On the advice of a television producer, Mr Kennedy, dressed in a fitted blue suit, maintained eye contact with the camera and had trimmed his bushy hair to counter criticism that he was too young to lead the nation. Those who heard the debate on radio felt that Mr Nixon had won. For the television audience, however, Mr Kennedy was the clear victor. The Republican never recovered while Kennedy's support multiplied from that moment.

Preparation for the presidential debates has since become a grand production worthy of Hollywood. Aware of the overwhelming power of television, candidates jockey for visual advantage in predebate negotiations. In 1960, discussion had centred on the temperature in the studio. Nixon aides had argued that thermostats be turned down to lessen their candidate's tendency to sweat. The Kennedy men had increased the heat.

Throughout this century, the taller candidate has always been the safest bet to win the election. Facing Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter used every means at his disposal to reduce his opponent's 3½-inch height advantage. He is even reported to have worn lifts in his shoes during the debates.

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Call to arms for longest battle

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE countdown to a May 1 election is under way. John Major will fire the starting gun today for the longest election campaign in living memory. There will be 44 days between the calling of the election and polling day. The only comparable gap was in 1945, when the election took place 41 days after being announced.

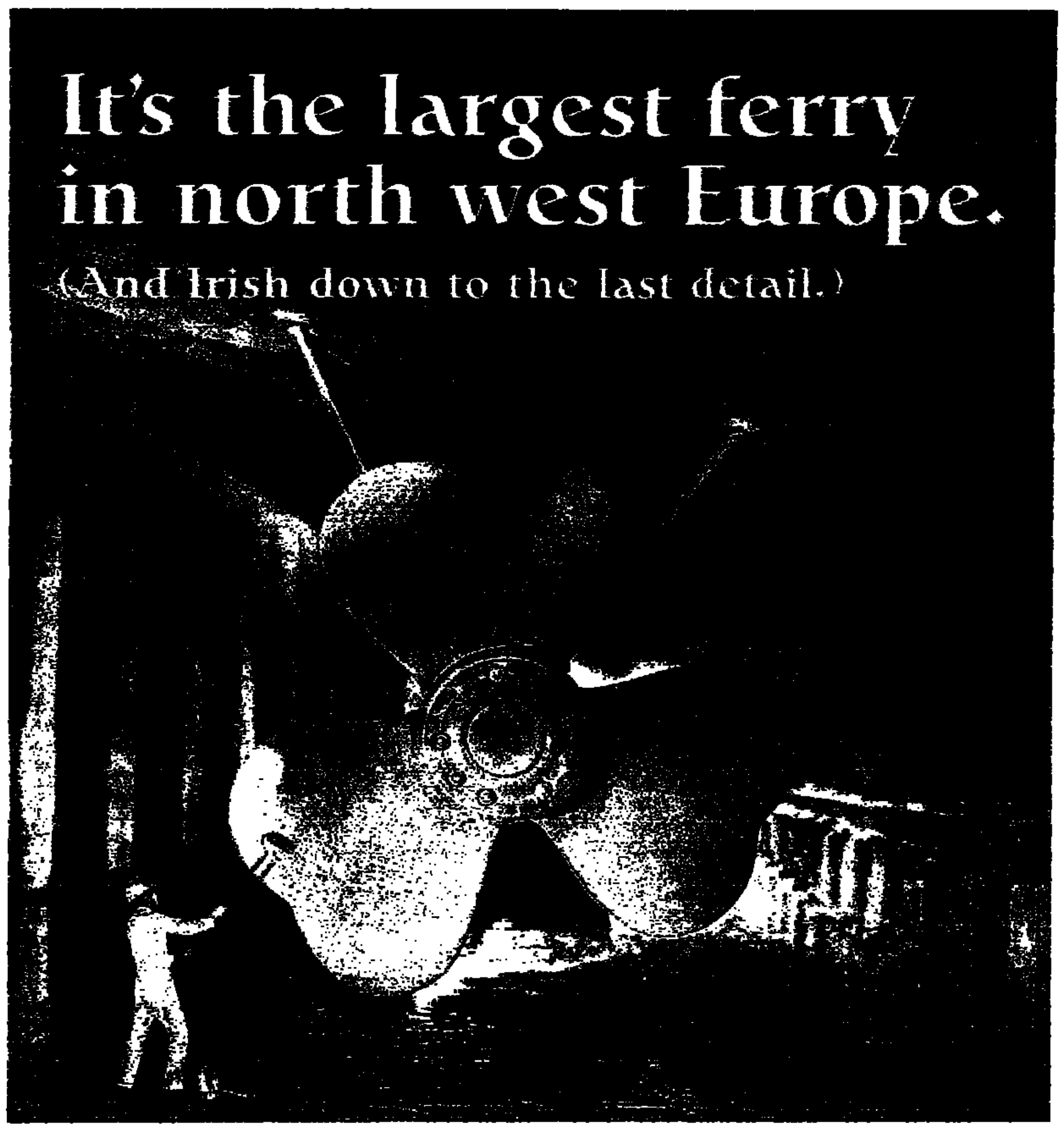
Mr Major put his party on an election footing at the weekend. After his visit to Buckingham Palace today, ministers will hit the ground running. Apart from a break over Easter to give the voters a rest, there will be six weeks of unrelenting campaigning.

To haul back his poll deficit Mr Major has assembled a big personal campaign team. It emerged yesterday that Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare will assist in the organisation of all his evening events, including the rallies.

Ministers are keen to get the Commons up quickly. After the election announcement the whips will agree on which Bills can be got through quickly.

But Westminster has been in limbo for days. Although the formal dissolution of Parliament may not come until early in April, allowing MPs access to their parliamentary offices up until then, most MPs want to get out on the campaign trail. Mr Major is about to let them off the leash. As they prepare for the battle ahead ministers and MPs will bear in mind the following milestones.

☐ **March 17:** election called. Mr Major tells the Cabinet, the Queen and then the nation from Downing Street. Big fall in crime figures announced. Sell-off of mobile telephone airwaves announced.
☐ **March 19:** ministers will hail fresh fall in unemployment.
☐ **March 20:** cabinet finalises manifesto.
☐ **March 25:** last Question Time clash between Mr Major and Mr Blair.
☐ **March 26/27:** MPs rise for Easter, probably not to return before the election.
☐ **April 2-3:** parties publish manifestos.
☐ **April 4:** Major holds the first of seven big campaign rallies, at the Royal Albert Hall.
☐ **April 7:** party leaders formally take to the road in their campaigns.
☐ **April 16:** nominations close.
☐ **April 29:** Mr Major's final rally in London.
☐ **May 1:** polling day.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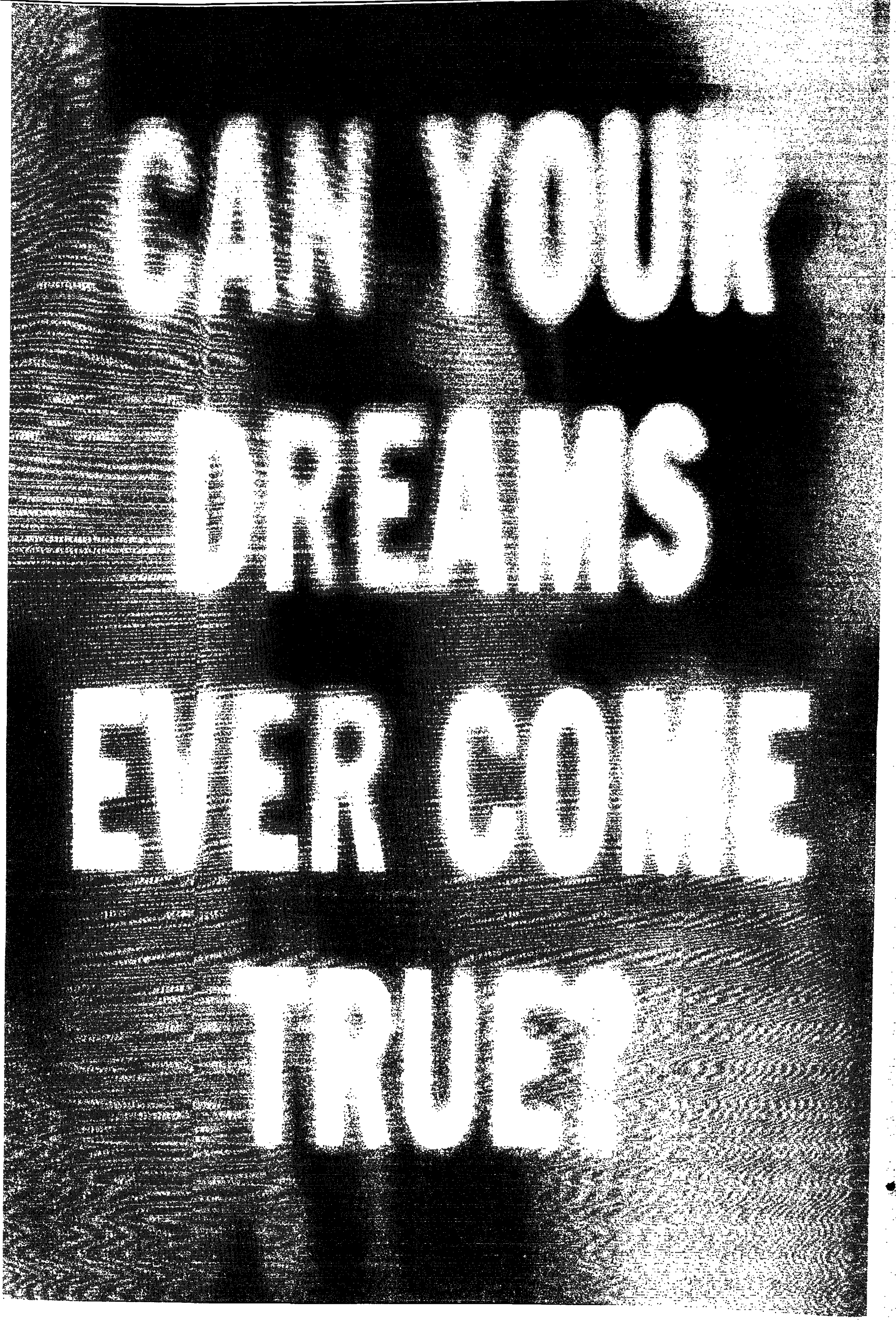

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Television in cells and microwaves make jail plusher than any in England, chief inspector reports

IRA prisoners lead 'a life of luxury' in Ulster

Sir David: he was once an IRA bomb target

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

TERRORIST prisoners transferred from England to serve their sentences in an Ulster jail are living in luxury unprecedented on the mainland, says a report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons, a former Army officer who was once an IRA target.

Maghaberry jail was described by one prison source as "a retirement home for terrorists" with in-cell television, access to microwave ovens, toasters and fridge-freezers. Each inmate can spend up to £99 a week in the prison shop.

They have access to two full-sized grass soccer pitches, two pitches with artificial turf and each wing also has a multi-gym. Among those transferred to Maghaberry were Patrick Magee, the Brighton bomber, and Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer who were convicted of an IRA plot to bomb English seaside resorts.

In an unnanounced visit inspectors also discovered female prisoners in the women's unit ignored prison officers and would only speak to the governor or deputy governor. "Prisoners telephoned the Director of Operations: and he responded to their requests," the report by Sir David Ramsbotham, the chief inspector, says.

Sir David, Colonel Commandant 2nd Battalion Royal Green Jackets from 1987 to 1992, was believed to be the intended target of an IRA bomb found outside his home in Kensington in November 1989. He served several tours of duty in Northern Ireland and in 1974 he commanded a battalion in the Lower Falls area. From 1978 to 1980 he commanded the 39 Infantry Brigade responsible for the Belfast district.

Although the prison has a policy of integrating loyalist and republican prisoners, two timetables operated in the furniture craft shop because republican women inmates refused to work with other prisoners, inspectors found.

In the women's unit every cell had a television which the inmates rented for 25p a week. "Duvets and curtains were common. The standard of the accommodation was the best we have seen anywhere for women's prisons," the report says.

Association rooms were furnished with a television, stereo system, exercise equipment, a pool table and mini library. Families were allowed into the jail which holds an annual summer sportsday and barbecue and a Christmas pantomime.

Each unit within Maghaberry jail also has a food freezer, a microwave oven, toaster and kettles and prisoners were able to purchase unlimited quantities of food from the tuckshop.

The level of luxury for inmates is an embarrassment for Michael Howard who agreed to transfer men and women convicted of serious terrorist offences to jails in Northern Ireland on the basis they enjoyed no more privileges than they would on the mainland. The Home Secretary's policy is that prison should be "decent but austere" and he is opposed to in-cell television.

Around 20 men and women convicted of terrosit offences on the mainland have been transferred back to Maghaberry. Sir David demanded a reduction in the £99-a-week spending limit to the £2.50p to £15 range, depending on a prisoner's status, operating at jails in England and Wales.

Sir David supported one demand from Anderson and O'Dwyer, who were transferred from Durham jail, to be treated the same as other women inmates and allowed compassionate leave to visit relatives in Northern Ireland who were seriously ill. They are currently held under Home Office rules which do not allow them to benefit from more relaxed rules on early release and compassionate leave operating in Northern Ireland.

A spokeswoman of the Northern Ireland Office said there was no upper limit on the amount of personal private cash a prisoner could spend written down in regulations.

She admitted that the system was more generous than that operating in England and Wales but said it was unlikely inmates actually spent that amount.

The spokeswoman said the Northern Ireland prison service welcomed the report and would respond fully to its findings in a number of weeks.

May Balls fall victim to the serious business of having fun

■ Celebrity consultants and corporate sponsors are the new face of Oxbridge May Balls, Damian Whitworth writes.

THE harsh laws of the free-market jungle have invaded the traditional idyll of May Balls, the champagne-fuelled rites of passage for Oxbridge undergraduates. In an increasingly competitive market, colleges are turning to celebrity consultants and corporate sponsors to show that nothing succeeds like excess.

With prices for the smartest tickets breaking the £200 barrier, students are shopping around outside their own colleges for the most lavish ball to attend. Smaller competitors are unable to compete.

At the height of the recession, some balls — most notably at Pembroke, Cambridge — collapsed through lack of support. Now times have changed. When tickets for the Trinity Ball went on sale this year, all 900 went in 25 minutes. Students had been queueing for hours.

Paula Black, president of the Trinity Ball committee, said: "It was the first year we have had queues. It is quite a lot of money to pay, but it goes further because there are more attractions now."

Trinity, which annually rivals St John's as the biggest Cambridge ball, first held such events at the turn of the century. Then the boat club had a dinner and dance under the stars for members of the college. Now, students expect ever more innovative entertainment all through the night.

Last year Emmanuel had an event for 600 students costing £17 a head. This year 1,400 guests are paying £207 for a double ticket, including dinner and a chart band. Bruce Oldfield, the fashion designer, has been engaged to design the event. Tickets sold out within days.

Toby Chapell, president of the Emmanuel Ball committee, said: "People are expecting a lot more. You need a famous band, jazz, comedy, a casino, and rides. So you've got to do a big event for a lot of people to cover that."

Magdalene: poster by Scarfe, and sponsorship

Nadya Rajan, another Emmanuel student who coordinates the ball's press coverage, added: "There is a much more consumer approach to the larger balls. People from other colleges shop around."

At Magdalene College, Cambridge, the ball has a poster designed by Gerald Scarfe, lighting by the company that illuminated the Brit Awards, and support from the merchant bank SBC Warburg. "It's the first time we have had a sponsor of that calibre," said Nick Watkins, its ball president, who has also talked his way into a job with the bank when the ball is over.

"Standards have been getting higher and higher in recent years. It is getting to the stage when you have to have very good ideas just to get noticed, there's a lot more competition." Even without naming the bands that will be playing on the night, most of the £220 double tickets have been sold.

Colleges unable to compete with the most professional balls are holding more low-key, cheaper and less formal events. Ben Jackson, president of Cambridge University Student Union, said: "It's very competitive. For a lot of colleges, there is a move away from holding balls towards events which cost slightly less. Some of the smaller ones fold or are unsuccessful."

At Oxford, the competition is a little less ferocious. Christ Church recently decided, in a spirit of egalitarianism, to scrap its traditional triennial commemorative ball in favour of a less grand event, leaving New College and Magdalen, the big players in this field.

This year it is the turn of Magdalen — 750 double tickets at £185, or £220 including dinner — have already sold out. Aniela Waitt, of the Magdalen Ball committee, said: "At Cambridge, things are slightly worse because there are more balls held every year. But there are very high expectations for the Magdalen Ball, which is tough for us. We have to cater for so many kinds of music. The days of just one band are gone, and you need a chart band that people have heard of."

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Degrees of celebration: a long night stretches out at St John's, Cambridge

Relatives celebrate Oates the polar hero

By Michael Horsnell

CAPTAIN OATES, who famously gave his life during Scott's ill-fated 1912 expedition to the South Pole, was remembered yesterday at the village church where he worshipped.

Descendants of the man who defined courage for a generation of Englishmen gathered at the 13th-century St Mary's Church in Gestingthorpe, Essex, after a determined effort by the churchwarden Tony Dagnall to trace them. Veterans of Oates's regiment, the Inniskilling Dragoons, joined them and villagers in a service to mark his death 85 years ago today, when he was 32.

Caroline Oates, 15, a great-great-niece, said: "I would love to have met him. I am very proud of him. He has made me realise what people can do and how they can help others. He is an inspiring figure."

Suffering from severe frostbite, Oates told his colleagues on the expedition, "I am just going outside, and may be some time", because he feared that he was slowing them down. Mr Dagnall, who described Oates as a great hero, hopes for a permanent memorial in the form of a foundation that would reward the courage of young people.

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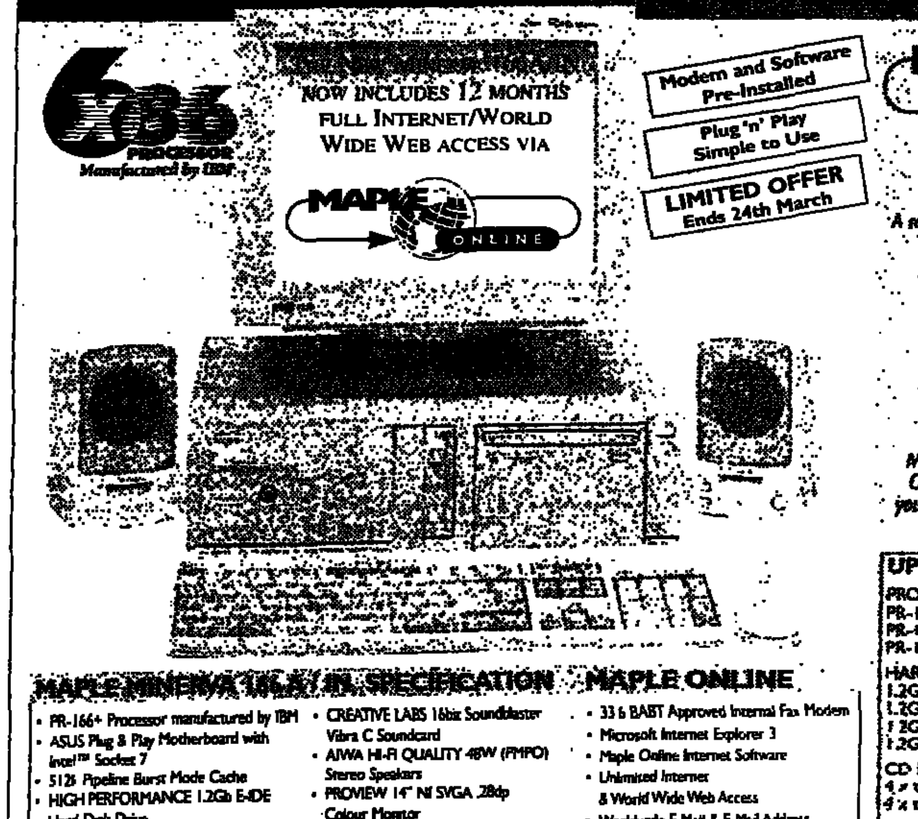

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BALLOT 97
THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

9. *Transport*

Treasury will be keeping its foot on the brake

THE POLITICS

TRANSPORT has long been the Cinderella of government. Neglected, starved of funds and low on the list of Cabinet priorities. Britain's roads, railways and urban networks are in a sorry state. Since the Tories came to power in 1979 there have been 11 Transport Secretaries, staying an average of only 18 months. The department is demoralised and confused as the Treasury repeatedly singles it out for a bad deal in the annual spending round. In the last Budget, it was savaged even more than usual, with £870 million lopped off its plans. Indeed, the very existence of the department is in question: the Tories have indicated they may abolish it, and Labour is said to be considering its amalgamation with the environment department.

Yet transport is an issue that arouses strong passions among voters. The motorists' lobby — which can include anyone who owns a car — is strong and angry at the state of Britain's crumbling motorways and bridges, the congestion now estimated to cost business £19 billion a year, and the cuts in road building. Rail enthusiasts are even angrier. Rail privatisation, the most complex and controversial of all the state sell-offs, has been bitterly opposed from its inception by many Conservative as well as Labour supporters. The form, as well as the philosophy, has been questioned, the bureaucratic difficulties protracted and the results yet to win over most rail users.

Transport is also caught in the crossfire between opposing interests. The rise of the environmental movement has in its sights the backbone of Britain's transport system: private cars and lorries. Once seen by Tories as the symbol of individual choice and affluence, the car is now the enemy to green activists. Road building threatens the interests of homeowners and the countryside. Car pollution is a main cause of urban noise, dirt, rising respiratory illness and environmental damage. The rise in car ownership is blamed for the decline in public transport, especially in the countryside, the construction of out-of-town shopping centres which are killing the heart of many towns, and traffic congestion.

The Conservatives have found that traditional friends such as motoring lobbies have become liabilities; the influence they had on the Department of Transport's policies is blamed for the underfunding of public transport, especially rail and the Underground. But curbing the car would be costly and unpopular. Under Margaret Thatcher, who was hostile to public transport — especially rail — no attempt was made. But Sir George Young, the present Transport Secretary, has announced that the future road-building programme is to be drastically reduced. Apart from a few bypasses around historic towns, the upgrading of some roads and the refurbishing of the motorways, virtually no roads are to be built across virgin land.

Yet 95 per cent of all personal journeys in Britain and 80 per cent of freight loads go by road — more than anywhere else in Europe. Road traffic has increased sixfold over the past 40 years and is likely to double again in the next 20. And reducing demand by price — whether it be raising taxes on fuel, banning cars from city centres, or introducing charges for motorway use — runs into sharp opposition.

The problem for the Tories is that having downplayed or downgraded public transport for so long, they cannot easily now turn against private motoring as there is little alternative. The failure to invest in rail has been so great, especially in the London Underground, that privatisation was seen as the only way to get money for the urgently needed infrastructure upgrade. But the benefits are yet to flow, and will hardly affect road traffic. The Tories, pressing environmental credentials, are trying to revive cycling and even walking — but though popular, such gestures are marginal to getting Britain moving again.

Labour, traditionally the champion of public provision, is caught on another dilemma: cost. It opposes rail privatisation but cannot afford to buy back a national system and knows that Treasury constraints will never allow rail to become an attractive alternative to road. The Underground presents a classic problem: privatisation is anathema, but higher taxes have been ruled out and private finance initiatives — now finding favour with Labour — will not be enough to revamp a dilapidated system.

Labour also suffers from lack of political attention to transport. It, too, has run through its spokesmen rapidly. Andrew Smith, who recently succeeded Clare Short, has yet to establish his authority; Glenda Jackson, part of the transport team, is better known but is shrill and reactive. The party that made much of its opposition to rail privatisation lacks consistency in formulating an alternative. It has also failed to make an impression on another issue where Tory ideology has brought disaster: bus deregulation. The impression has been given that the running has been left to road protesters, Save Our Railways and environmentalists. In a recent poll of 1,000 people, 6 per cent recognised the road protester known as Swampy, 3 per cent recognised Sir George Young and not one person could identify Andrew Smith.

Leading article, page 21

Tory years of neglect have taken a heavy toll

THE RECORD

EVEN the Conservatives would concede that Britain's transport is poor. Britain has some of Europe's most congested roads, expensive public transport and most dilapidated road and rail infrastructure. Traffic speeds in big cities are hardly faster than in Victorian times. London's promoters see poor transport in the capital as the single factor most damaging to its attempt to win global business.

Unlike continental Europe, especially France, Britain has spent little on its transport infrastructure over the past 18 years. The Tory campaign literature promises record spending of £14.1 billion during the next three years, but the record is less impressive. Urban transport systems, especially, have been allowed to run down. The London Underground, the first and once the finest in the world, has been starved of funds and is now in a sorry state, with a backlog of urgent repairs costing more than £1 billion. Local councils, faced with competing demands and the capping of their budgets, have been unable to put money into transport systems. Bus services have been deregulated, often with chaotic results so that popular routes are served by three or four competing companies while rural areas are abandoned.

Transport policy has been dominated by two issues since 1992: road building and rail privatisation. But also generating excitement and alarm have been the building of the Channel Tunnel — the greatest engineering project in Europe since the Second World War — and the safety of roll-on, roll-off ferries.

Conservative road philosophy has been based on the principle of "predict and provide". Traffic growth was seen as inexorable and wider car ownership as a desirable goal, and the Government saw its task as managing the increase by extending and improving the road network. The Tories claim that since 1979 the Government has spent more than £26 billion on motorways and trunk roads, completing more than 400 schemes to improve national roads and building or upgrading 1,300 miles of trunk road. A further £351 million has been spent on traffic management.

The figures are impressive, but the results are not. The Government has, at long last, now admitted what seemed obvious to many: as soon as roads are built they fill up with traffic. The M25 around London, completed in the mid-1980s, is now Britain's busiest motorway. And the faster road connections become, the more industry will use "just in time" delivery to save warehouse charges. As a result, roads now account for 91 per cent of freight delivery. And with the increase in axle weights to 38 tonnes and, soon, to 40 tonnes, the strain on the road system is growing. There are fewer lorries on the roads than 20 years ago, but they demand more space, do more damage and cause more distress to residents than the smaller vans and trucks.

The bill for repairing crumbling and crowded motorways will rise rapidly. The Government therefore has proposed an electronic toll system, finally accepting the principle of road charging. Trials on the M3 have not begun as the complicated technology — essential in a country too crowded to allow toll booths at motorway entrances — needs further laboratory testing. The principle is deeply unpopular and the scheme has been delayed indefinitely.

A more radical change came with the acceptance by the Government of limits on road building. The turning point was the protracted battle over the Twyford Down road to link the motorways around Southampton. Electorally, this decision — popular with the Treasury — was eased by the growing power of the environmental lobby. The Conservatives insist they are not "anti-car"; but in the 1996 Budget they cancelled 110 road schemes, allowing only 114 to go ahead. Nevertheless, even existing road schemes are now arousing furious opposition. The most controversial was the Newbury bypass, and the eviction of protesters from trees and tunnels along the route cost millions of pounds.

Since the 1992 election the Transport Department has been preoccupied with rail privatisation. Dismissed by the late Robert Adley as a "poll tax on wheels" this has proved more controversial, costly and complex than anyone predicted. It has run into the furious opposition not only of Labour and the Left, but of environmentalists, railway supporters, passengers and many Conservatives. Having taken the basic and controversial decision to separate responsibility for track and infrastructure from train operations, the Government proposed the franchising of 25 routes to private companies for fixed terms. All rolling stock was to be turned over to three privatised leasing companies, and Railtrack, responsible for the network and the main stations, was to be privatised.

This system involved a massive new bureaucracy to franchise the services, regulate safety, protect passenger interests and ensure that the new system penalised bad performance and encouraged competition. All links were to be governed by contracts and legal agreements. The Government set minimum service obligations, capped fares to no higher than inflation until beyond 2000, protected through-ticketing and tried to co-ordinate timetabling.

At almost every stage in the setting up of the new machinery, bureaucracy and confusion led to horror stories. Law suits were filed to hinder the franchising operations. There were delays and initial lack of interest by potential operators. The Government was forced into a drastic writing down of the notional value of Railtrack in an effort to speed up its flotation, while retreating from the high level of access charges initially proposed.

Shares soared, leading to complaints that the company, sold for £1.9 billion, had been undervalued. Another row followed the sale of Porterbrook and Eversholt, two of the three leasing companies, which yielded huge profits to the management buy-outs.

Privatisation of the Train Operating Units began slowly, and was marred when one of the first three planned transfers — to a management buy-out by the London, Tilbury and Southend railway — had to be cancelled at the last minute because of accusations of charging irregularities. However, the leasing contracts quickly picked up in 1995, and some of the bigger bus and transport consortiums began winning bids that brought confidence to the market. One of the last to be franchised was the largest, the West Coast main line, which was delayed because of the need for huge investment in upgrading the line and in new tilting rolling stock. It was won — to the Government's relief — by Richard Branson's Virgin Group, adding to the group's control of CrossCountry Trains and its big stake in the consortium franchised to build the high-speed channel link and operate the Eurostar service. Virgin has emerged as one of the big train operators in Britain, with the bus operator National Express.

Privatisation is now virtually complete, with noticeable improvements in service on some lines. However, South West Trains, the first franchise owned by Stagecoach, caused intense annoyance by laying off so many drivers that at first it had to cancel 70 trains a day, to the fury of passengers and at a cost of a large daily fine.

Rail also dominated the transport agenda with the opening of the Channel Tunnel on May 6, 1994. Car shuttles to Calais and through services to Paris and Brussels built up quickly, and within a year the tunnel was carrying almost half the passengers to France. The Tunnel suffered a disastrous fire last November, which caused severe damage. No one was killed, and most safety systems worked. But public confidence was shaken and tunnel traffic disrupted, and the repairs are scheduled to take up to six months.

Sir George Young has tried to encourage environmentally friendly transport policies, and is a keen supporter of cycling. This received a big boost when the Millennium Fund announced a £40 million grant for a network of cycle paths. Local authorities have also been encouraged to provides cycle lanes in towns.

The Government's record on transport has been one of neglect, believing that other issues were more important. But the media focus on "road rage", the confusion over changes in rail provision and the growing conflict between the demand for better transport and protection of the environment have all increased the attention of the voters — and the Government. A new government is likely to appoint a Transport Secretary who lasts longer and is more committed to the challenge than the previous 11 incumbents.

Next week: employment

Richard Branson's Virgin Group, which is part of the consortium running Eurostar, has become one of the big private train operators, with control of CrossCountry Trains and the franchise for the West Coast main line

THE POLITICIANS

■ SIR GEORGE YOUNG

Age: 55

Education: Eton and Oxford.
Family: married, two sons and two daughters
Experience: MP for Ealing Acton since 1974 and Transport Secretary since July 1995. Long-standing ally of John Major since working with him as Lambeth councillor in early 1970s. Opposition whip, 1976-79. Junior ministerial jobs at Health and Environment; sacked by Margaret Thatcher 1986. Recalled to Whips' Office 1990. Financial Secretary to the Treasury 1994-95.
Politics: left-of-centre moderate, strong green interests. Cyclist. Sent children to comprehensive schools.
Performance: has challenged the strength of the roads lobby in his department and boosted the cause of cycling.

■ ANDREW SMITH

Age: 46

Education: Reading School and Oxford.
Family: married, one stepson.
Experience: MP for Oxford East since 1987 and Shadow Transport Secretary since July 1996. Higher education spokesman 1988-92; Shadow Treasury Minister 1992-94; Shadow Chief Secretary 1994-96.
Politics: technocrat with strong academic credentials and commitment to racial equality. A keen cyclist.
Performance: quick rise in the party; moved from Treasury job to give realistic financial basis to transport policy, especially commitment to restore publicly owned and accountable railway. Sober approach has won confidence of transport executives but generated few headlines.

WHAT THEY SAID

This is a momentous day for the railways and I hope that, in years to come, people will look back on today as the turning point — the point at which the renaissance of the railways began.
Sir George Young, Feb 1996, after the first rail franchise

The potential of these companies under private-sector management is substantial. At the moment, rail accounts for about 5 per cent of passenger miles, which is amazingly low.
Richard Hannah, transport analyst at UBS

We need to change the culture so it isn't unusual to have a Secretary of State who goes around on a bicycle.
Sir George Young, July 1996

You should never underestimate George's green instincts but there is little enthusiasm for giving them free rein at this stage of the electoral cycle.
DoT official, April 1996

For motorists approaching the capital from the West, you may as well put up a sign saying: "Go home, London closed."
RAC spokesman after closure of Hammersmith Bridge, Jan 1997

I reassert Labour's commitment to a publicly owned, publicly accountable railway.
Andrew Smith, Shadow Transport Secretary

Our pledge is to turn this into the best railway in Europe.
Richard Branson, winner of West Coast franchise, Feb 1997

THE FACTS

☐ Over the past 30 years the weight of goods carried in Britain has averaged just under 2 billion tonnes a year. About 80 per cent goes by road — roughly the same as in 1964 — but the percentage going by rail has halved to 5 per cent. Pipeline and water-borne freight has increased to 13 per cent.

☐ Total road traffic is 40 per cent higher than in 1983. Personal travel has gone up by 46 per cent since 1979. International air travel has more than doubled and sea travel has grown by 74 per cent.

☐ Britain has the fewest road accidents per head in the European Union — almost five times fewer than Portugal. In 1995 there were fewer deaths than in any year since 1926, although there are now 14 times as many vehicles on the roads.

☐ Road congestion now costs £19 billion a year; by 2005 a third of the motorway and trunk road network will suffer chronic congestion.

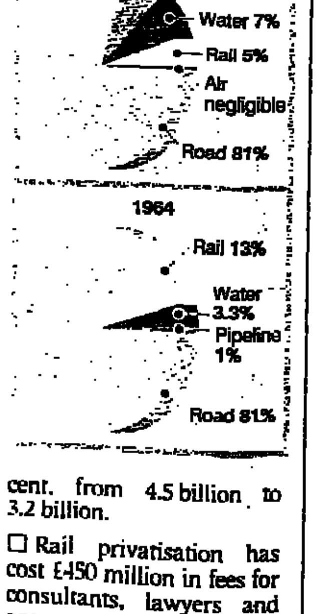
☐ Since deregulation began more than ten years ago, the number of bus passenger journeys per year outside London has fallen by 29 per cent, from 4.5 billion to 3.2 billion.

☐ Rail privatisation has cost £450 million in fees for consultants, lawyers and accountants.

☐ London Underground's investment backlog, £2 billion in 1991, reduced to £1.2 billion in February this year. Train kilometres will rise to 58.75 million this year, with a further 10 per cent increase in 1997-98.

Movement of freight in Britain by volume

Latest Department of Transport figures



CONSERVATIVES

Rail privatisation: main plank of manifesto. Party will trumpet results expected to flow soon from better services, falling subsidies and increased investment. Tube privatisation to be pushed forward though form of the sell-off still undecided.

Road building: no new road building apart from motorway and trunk road upgrading and bypass schemes already approved. Money focused on improving network, with better traffic flows and measures to ease congestion.

Motorway tolls: possible attempt to pursue scheme, delayed before election, using electronic monitoring. Unlikely to be introduced in next Parliament.

Environment: to have greater emphasis. Cycling to be encouraged in cities. More weight given to regional and local views. Panel of experts to examine links between traffic growth, transport investment and economic growth.

Public transport: shift to better provision, with encouragement of new urban tram networks, bus provision and rail projects such as Thameslink 2000 and Channel Tunnel Rail Link. Little public money available, however, and funds to come from privatisation or private finance initiatives.

LABOUR

Rail privatisation: commitment to take rail back into public sector virtually dropped. Now insisting on Strategic Rail Authority to maximise network benefits and tougher powers of regulator. Train operating leases to continue. Opposed to privatisation of London Underground, but eager to get private money for infrastructure improvements.

Road building: has no commitment to increase road building except small-scale links after exhaustive local consultation.

Motorway tolls: opposed but considering allowing councils the power to impose charges on local roads.

Environment: main plank of Labour transport policy. Big emphasis on cycling, pedestrian provision and environmentally clean transport. Buses to be encouraged and new regulatory framework introduced. More local consultation on environmental priorities and land use.

Public transport: this is a Labour priority, with private investment to be encouraged. But the party is keen to play down its anti-car reputation. More integration of rail and bus services.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Rail privatisation: controlling interest to be reacquired in Railtrack, but it is not clear where the money for this would be found: a national rail authority would be set up to implement overall policy in rail sector. Public funds to be used to support local rail network through local authorities.

Road building: opposed to all new road building except repairs to the present network. Car use is to be discouraged, especially for short journeys.

Motorway tolls: unclear.

Environment: strong emphasis on reducing private motoring with higher fuel and vehicle excise taxes and taxation of company-financed motoring. Tougher controls on polluting vehicles. Tax burden to be on vehicle ownership, not usage, and aim is to reduce need for travel. Cycling and walking to be encouraged.

Public transport: main plank of policy. Integrated transport systems to be developed, and ten-year plan on investment priorities, with private finance to be sought to boost rail systems, bus travel and moving freight off the roads.

هدية من الاهرام

'Two rounds winged past him, missing by inches,' corporal claims in his memoirs

SAS soldier 'fired live bullets past Duke's ear'

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Steve Devereux on operations with the SAS in Oman. His book, *Terminal Velocity*, describes a hostage-release demonstration before the Queen

AN SAS soldier fired live ammunition over the heads of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, with two shots missing the Duke's head "by inches", he claimed yesterday.

Steve Devereux, a corporal in the elite regiment, says in his memoirs that he sent the bullets whistling past the Duke's right ear as he shot at images of terrorists projected on to a screen in front of the royal party. "The rounds winged past the right-hand side of the Duke's head, missing by inches. He didn't bat an eyelid. I knew it was a tight shot, but I made the decision to fire anyway."

Duke: he gave soldier "one hell of a look"

He added that, as the Duke — who was wearing ear defenders — left the training room, "he gave me one hell of a vacant look. His right ear must have been buzzing."

He tells the story of the incident, which occurred during a hostage-release demonstration at the regiment's barracks in Hereford, in his memoirs, *Terminal Velocity*. Mr Devereux, who spent six years with the SAS, is the latest special forces' veteran to defy a Ministry of Defence ban on memoirs. He will now join a growing list of former SAS men barred from regimental functions as a result.

Mr Devereux, 37, who left the regiment in 1988, said the Queen and the Duke were asked to sit down in a mock-up train carriage. The Queen sat on the right of the aisle, with the Duke on the left in a front-row seat.

In front of them was a large screen on which terrorists and hostages appeared at random, projected via a series of slides. Corporal Devereux's task was to shoot the terrorists in the head on the screen.

"When the fourth slide came up it half covered the Duke's back and head. He was sitting upright ... Lucky for me, I spotted the terrorist just off to the right of the Duke's head. It was close but I fired two rounds and hit the terrorist." His commanding officer came over to him and said: "Very good shooting ... but take it a bit easy. I don't want the Duke slotted [killed]. OK?"

Mr Devereux confirmed yesterday that the bullets were live ammunition from his Heckler & Koch close-quarter anti-terrorist rifle. He said: "I was standing 15 to 20ft behind the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, firing over their heads at the screen. For the first three slides, the terrorists came up away from them, but the fourth one was slightly obscured by the Duke. The rifle is incredibly accurate."

He added: "It may sound extraordinary to fire live bullets over the head of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, but that was the sort of thing I was trained for. The regiment really is the best in the world."

His book was seen in advance by the MoD after discussions with the publishers, Smyth Gryphon, but it has taken no steps to prevent publication in a week's time, even though army chiefs are furious about the number of former special forces' soldiers bringing out books.

An MoD official said Mr Devereux would be banned from any special forces' premises or official functions, to prevent him from picking up new information for any future book. Mr Devereux said yesterday that he was planning a second book.

Mr Devereux, now working for security consultants, dismissed the MoD's concerns. "The MoD likes to be a nanny, but I wouldn't write anything that would be against the interests of my old mates in the regiment," he said.

Organ row threatens royal patronage of Balmoral church

By Dominic Kennedy

THE departure of an organist from Crathie Kirk, where the Queen worships while at Balmoral, has dismayed parishioners who fear that it will cause the Royal Family to end a century of worshipping among them.

The Kirk Session, the elders who manage the affairs of Anglican churches in Scotland, asked Charles Taylor to resign after 15 years in charge of music at the little hilltop chapel, less than a mile from Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire. The Princess Royal's wedding to Captain Timothy Laurence was held there.

At the heart of the dispute is a 19th-century wind organ donated by Queen Victoria, which needs a £150,000 restoration. Some parishioners fear that the new royal chaplain, Robert Sloan, who is regarded as a modernist, would prefer a new instrument, from America, instead of spending so much improving the old one.

According to one of the wilder rumours, the Queen has asked Balmoral staff to look at refurbishing a rarely used chapel on the estate grounds as an alternative to Crathie. There are dark tales that this is not the first clash between the Royal Family and Mr Sloan, who was appointed domestic chaplain to the Queen last October.

Mr Sloan yesterday described the allegations against him as "very serious" and "100 per cent wrong".

Mr Taylor, who lives in the village of Torphins, issued a statement through his solicitors. It read: "Mr Taylor has been organist and choirmaster at Crathie since 1982. He has given consistent, loyal service to the church. Recently he has become unhappy about the manner in which the future of the organ has been handled. "The organ was a gift to the church from Queen Victoria and was by the great organ-builder Father Willis. Mr Taylor has expressed his dissatisfaction to the Kirk Session. They have asked him to resign despite his long service. They have given no reason."

A new organist played at yesterday's service, which was attended by 70 worshippers, one of whom had heard that the Queen was considering reopening an old chapel at Balmoral now doing duty as a furniture store. It could be dusted down and used, he said. "It would need refurbishment, but it would not take more than a couple of weeks."

Mr Sloan was not at all worried. "The Kirk Session appoints organists and dismisses them. I know nothing about the reasons behind the decision. As far as I know, nothing has been decided over what is to be done about the organ. That decision is months away," he said.

Mr Sloan, from Perth, replaced Keith Angus, regarded as a traditionalist, when he retired.

Buckingham Palace dismissed any suggestion of a rift with the church. "I am not going to get dragged into tittle-tattle and speculation," said a spokeswoman.

The foundation stone for Crathie Kirk was laid by Queen Victoria in 1893 and it was dedicated in her presence two years later. Her descendants have a private transept built of granite and wood from the old Caledonian Forest in Balmoral.

☐ The Prince of Wales attended church in Sandringham yesterday with friends from the worlds of the church and the theatre, including the actors Barry Humphries and Jane Lapotaire and Lady Harrod, president of the Norfolk Churches Trust, of which the Prince is patron.

Worm bait banned in effort to protect salmon

By A Staff Reporter

ANGLERS have been banned from using worms as bait for salmon on one of Scotland's most famous rivers. The rule, along a 50-mile stretch of the Tweed, is aimed at conserving fish stocks.

Scientists have recommended the fly-only rule to reduce rod catches — currently around 10,000 salmon a year — particularly during low summer water levels, when the fish often prefer to go for a worm. The move will delight purists, who regard any lure other than a fly as unthinkable.

The ban affects beats run by landowners including the Duke of Roxburghe, the Duke of Sutherland, Earl Haig and the Earl of Portarlington. The best beats — fishing rights to a section of river — can command up to £800 per week. Under the code of conduct introduced by the Tweed Commissioners, salmon beat owners and ghillies have been forbidden from using worms from the junction of the Tweed with the Ettrick to its mouth at Berwick. Prawns were banned as bait three years ago for the same reason.

Joyce Nicol, clerk to the commissioners, said: "There was previously a gentlemen's agreement that worms could be used as a last resort — perhaps if someone had not caught a fish throughout an expensive day and particularly wanted to go home with one. It placed some boatmen in a difficult situation if a client insisted on using a worm. We were concerned that they were being used too widely. Now we have a firm rule and boatmen will be able to refuse without offending."

The Association of Scottish District Salmon Fishery Boards backed the move. A spokesman said: "Worms have always been used for trout fishing by small boys, but most active and proper fisherman would denigrate their use for salmon."

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Minister warns Howard over ID card Bill

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

MICHAEL HOWARD has been warned that his plans to bring in voluntary identity cards, expected to be one of the central proposals of the Conservative election manifesto, will face serious trouble in the House of Lords.

Viscount Cranborne, the Leader of the Lords, who is to be based at Downing Street during the general election campaign as part of John Major's team, has told the Home Secretary that his draft Bill on ID cards might be seen as no more than a "skeleton measure", with the main powers to be granted later on by regulations rather than primary legislation.

A leaked letter from Lord Cranborne to Mr Howard, seen by *The Times*, says that he and the Conservative Chief Whip in the Lords, Lord Strathclyde, "thought it best to warn you at this early stage that we envisage that there will be trouble if a Bill such as this were to come before the House of Lords". Mr Major promised in the Queen's Speech that Mr Howard would be publishing a draft Bill during this Parliament. It was not intended to become law at this time, but was meant to show the Government's determination to legislate if it won the election. The imminence of the election now makes it unlikely that Mr Howard will be able to publish his Bill.

Lord Cranborne's letter suggests that the main objection would be that Mr Howard's proposal was for an "enabling measure" with significant matters such as tests of residence and the fees left for later regulation.

Watchdog proposes new law on corruption

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

TOUGHER laws to crack down on bribery and corruption in public life will be proposed by the Law Commission this week in part of a two-pronged attack on "sleaze".

The commission, chaired by Dame Mary Arden, a High Court judge, is expected to propose a new single offence of corruption, which would make it easier to prosecute public officials. It will also invite views on whether the police should have greater investigative powers, similar to those of the Serious Fraud Office, to tackle alleged offences of corruption.

In a second offensive, the Home Office is preparing a paper, expected to be published shortly, which will propose a clarification of the common and statute laws on bribery of MPs. One likely option is to extend the scope of the present law so that it includes MPs. The offer or receipt of a gift which was corrupt — for example, because it was intended to influence — would then be a criminal offence.

But the recommendation would be controversial because it would extend the jurisdiction of the courts over MPs. The attack on sleaze and corruption in public life comes in response to recommendations of Lord Nolan, who chaired the committee on standards in public life established in 1994.

Lord Nolan, who led the committee set up in 1994

The Law Commission is to publish a consultation paper on Tuesday aimed at making clear which public servants are covered by the corruption laws, and strengthening the laws themselves. The commission, which reports to the Government, was set up in 1965 to study law reform.

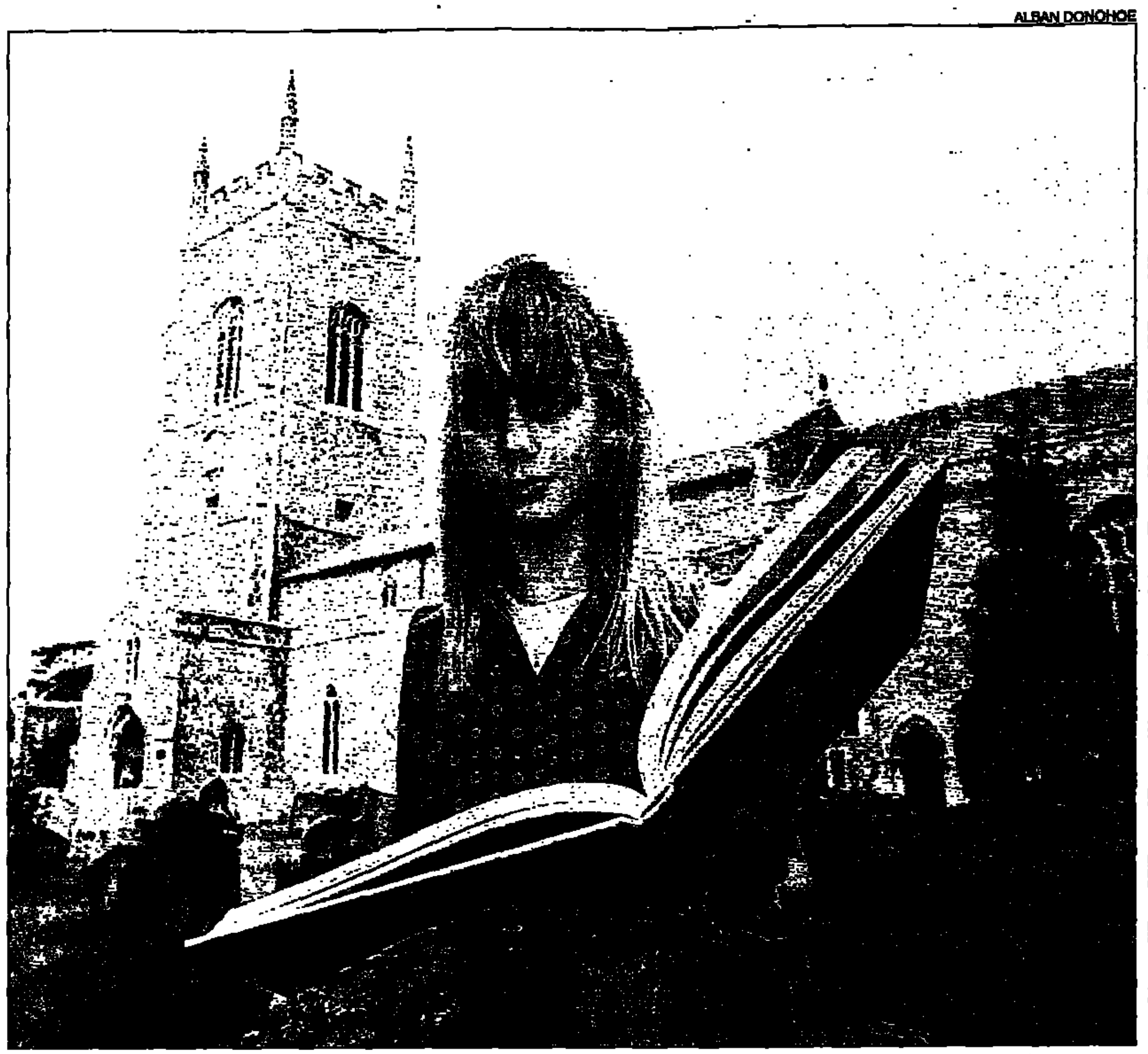
The proposals are likely to command support. Lord Nolan said yesterday: "I welcome the valuable work that has been undertaken by the Law Commission with a view to producing a much-needed clarification of the law in this important area."

Where bribery or corruption goes on, the perpetrators often escape prosecution because the laws on bribery and corruption are muddled and scattered in at least 11 statutes going back to 1551.

The extent of bribery and corruption is unknown. It is to some extent a "hidden" crime, in that the victims are not immediately apparent. A second problem is that it is not clear who is covered by the laws, a problem made worse with the growth of governmental bodies such as Next Steps agencies. The status of officials within those agencies needs to be defined.

The current law, according to the commission, draws a distinction between public bodies and other bodies, which presents difficulties in the context of privatised industries, in which officials can more easily escape prosecution than those in the private sector.

ALBAN DONOHOE


In a class of her own: Leanne Mawditt outside St George's Church. She said: "I miss my friends"

I'm lonely, says Sunday school girl after 'happy clappy' exodus

By A Staff Reporter

A GIRL aged ten is the only child left at a traditional Sunday school after the others left for a charismatic alternative. Leanne Mawditt said: "I didn't want to go because they do a lot of dancing and falling over and that scared me."

Now the solitary pupil has appealed for others to join her because she is bored and lonely reading books about Jesus without even a teacher to guide her, following a split in the congregation at her village church. A dozen other children once attended the religious teaching on Sunday mornings at St George's in Saham Toney, Norfolk.

Villagers who prefer evangelical worship left the 14th-century church six months ago to attend charismatic "happy clappy" services at the nearby Ashill community centre. The exodus included the two Sunday School organisers and all parents with children at the church, apart from Leanne's family.

She has written an article headlined The Lost Sunday School in her village magazine, *The Saham Saga*, saying: "I want to stay at St George's because I prefer it, but I miss my friends. I wish some would come back or maybe other children who don't go to church at the moment could come along. It is getting to the stage where if I cannot get anyone else, I will not come any more."

She sits in a first-floor room during morning services and has company only when her 14-year-old sister, Sarah Jane, is on holiday from boarding school. Her stepfather, Donald, is church warden. Her mother, Brenda, 42, said: "Writing in the magazine was her idea. I hope other children decide to keep her company."

The rector, the Rev Martin Down, 56, ministers to both congregations with the help of a non-stipendiary priest and lay preachers. He said: "I know Leanne is on her own, but she is welcome at the Sunday school at the community centre. It is bigger and more fun. I don't really think she would be frightened if she came and saw for herself."

Mr Down introduced charismatic services at St George's and the neighbouring St Nicholas's in Ashill after moving to the parishes eight years ago. Last year he upset traditional worshippers with plans to remove Victorian oak pews from one side of St Nicholas's to allow worshippers more space to dance. The opposition led to his dropping the idea and holding charismatic services at the community centre instead.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy falls to death from cliff

A boy aged ten fell to his death from a 140ft cliff at Seaford, East Sussex. His sister, 12, who was helping him to walk the family dog, was treated in hospital for shock.

Gemma Underdown was talking to friends who went with them and did not notice James at the edge of Seaford Head. He apparently lost his footing as he peered over.

Lonely end

A woman's body lay undiscovered in her Manchester flat for seven months after she apparently killed herself by putting a plastic bag over her head. Lorna Goldsworthy, 60, left a note saying: "I have no one to love — no one cares about me."

Youth drink line

A helpline has been launched for children who need help about their drinking, or that of their parents or friends. Drinkline Youth offers counsellors on 0345 320202 (Mon-Fri, 11am-11pm) and recorded information on 0990 143275.

Chance to shine

Britain will be represented in the Eurovision Song Contest by Katrina and the Waves, singing *Love Shine a Light*. The group polled 69,834 public votes on BBC1's National Lottery Live programme. The contest is in Dublin on May 3.

Rider killed

A woman found with fatal head injuries in a field is believed to have been trampled by her horse. Helen Barlow, 35, died shortly after being discovered by a farmer's wife in the field near Nantwich, Cheshire.

Catch of the day

A bride left her reception to attend a Birds Eye job interview, dressed in her white gown. Jennifer Minns, 25, of Hull, had been unable to change the interview date. She is waiting to hear if she has the part-time factory job.

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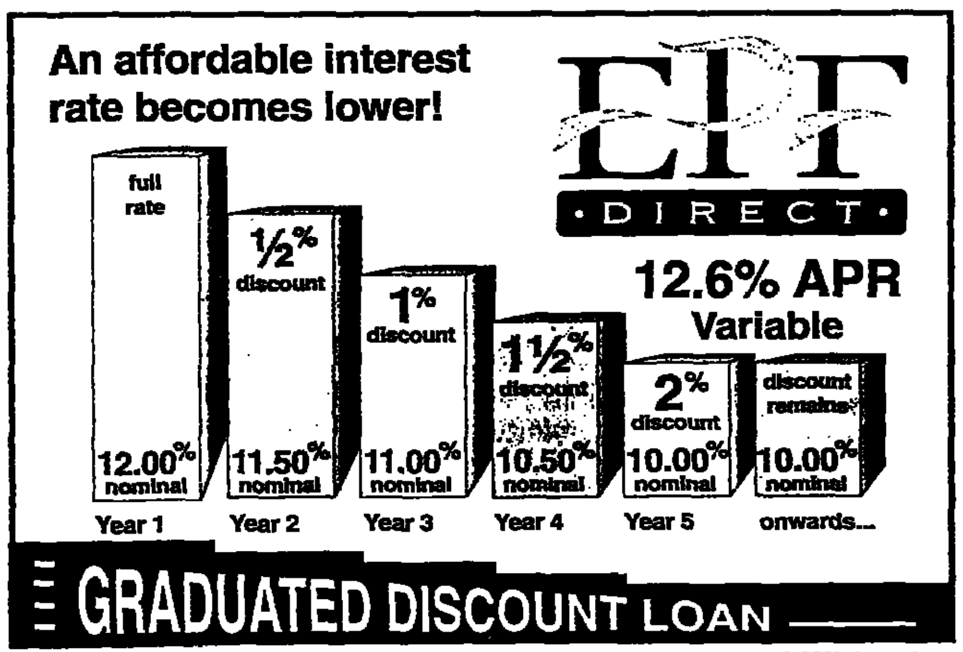

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Happy ending as a ghost writer returns in spirit

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

SCHOLARS are preparing to assemble at the Reading Room of the British Library to provide a happy ending to the story of an 1890s poet who made a pact with the Devil to return "a hundred years hence".

They are planning displays about the life and work of Enoch Soames and lectures on his modern influences, which are especially impressive as he never existed. He was the poignant hero of a short story about a man dismissed as third-rate by his contemporaries but convinced that he would be recognised by future generations.

Under the terms of his pact with the Devil, he was allowed five hours in the Reading Room on June 3, 1997, to look himself up in encyclopaedias and dictionaries where he expected he would discover his place in posterity.

In the short story *Enoch Soames*, by Max Beerbohm — published in his 1916 masterpiece *Seven Men* — Soames returns to discover that posterity has ignored him, except as an invention by Beerbohm. As the Devil whisks him away, he realises that the final insult is that no one will ever believe he was real.

Now fans of the story plan to honour Soames. The antiquarian bookseller Edward Maggs, who is co-ordinating the event, said: "We are giving Soames something to feel good about." If all goes to plan, Soames will feel as important as he always hoped to be.

Tentative plans for June 3 include a series of spoof lectures. Sir Stephen Tumim, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons and a Beerbohm fan, will chair discussions on topics as diverse as "The Influence of Soames's Writing in Maoist China" and "Soames and the New Woman, a Post-Feminist Analysis". A proposed display of Soamesiana may feature books which Soames never wrote and portraits which a leading artist of his day never painted.

When Soames made his pact, he expected to see "pages and pages in the catalogue: 'Soames, Enoch' endlessly — endless editions, commentaries". Explaining to Beerbohm why he had to visit the next century, he said: "Posterity! What use is it to *me*? A dead man doesn't know that people are visiting his grave — visiting his birthplace — putting up tablets to him — unveiling statues of him."

By bringing real-life characters into the story, Beerbohm (1872-1956) made Soames all the more believable. A leading bibliographer and book collector, Mark Samuels Lasner, who regards this tale as one of the greatest short stories in British literature, managed to dupe the literary world with a fake copy of Soames's nonexistent book, *Fungoids*. In 1989, several academic American libraries tried to buy it from a bookseller.

The British Library emphasised that negotiations were at an early stage. It has been receiving calls from Soames fans wondering about any special celebrations. For practical reasons, the event is unlikely to involve the general public.

Soames, whose tragic story speaks to mere mortals everywhere, would have been humbled by the attention. As the Devil takes him away, he tells Beerbohm: "Try to make them know that I did exist."

Leading article, page 21

JUSTIN SUTCLIFFE

Fact and fiction: Lasner and a 1912 Soames sketch

Kew plans 'people's palace' of historic treasures

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

A COLLECTION of treasures from 900 years of history may be transformed into a popular cultural landmark if a bid for lottery funding is successful next month.

The Domesday Book, Shakespeare's will and the log of Captain Bligh's *Bounty* are among the documents held by the Public Record Office, where proposals to create a new museum at its site in Kew, southwest London, are being considered by the Cabinet Office.

"In the 19th century the Public Record Office was the strongbox of the Empire, but this place should be the palace of the people. What we have here is 900 years of people's history," Sarah Tyacke, the Keeper, said.

At present it attracts about 150,000 visitors a year, mostly historians, academics and genealogists, but many people do not know where the office is, or what is held there.

Last year, when the Ministry of Defence released the personal records of First World War servicemen, streams of visitors turned up to locate and copy the papers of their relatives. Mrs Tyacke said: "I think all of us here have been struck by the strength of feeling about the soldiers' documents. We also realised we were reaching out to new people.

"There are also areas that most people don't even know we have — for example, half a million wallpaper and fabric designs from the 19th-century Trade Design Register," she added.

A programme for schools is being drawn up to enable pupils to study periods linked to the national curriculum.

The office also wants to put more records on the Internet. About 8,000 people a month are already contacting the office's Web site and staff believe there is scope for considerable expansion.

Jasper Jacobs, a leading museum design consultant, said: "What they really have to do is make the office public. It may be called public at present, but I think most people would think it more a private or secret office."

SIMON WALKER

ys par la grace de Dieu Roy
de france. Scauoir faisons
a tous presens et aduenir.

An illuminated page from a 15th-century manuscript held in the archives at Kew

Medical museum mixes pain and pleasure

By Paul Wilkinson

BRITAIN'S first medical museum, illustrating the science's primitive beginnings and great advances, opens next week. The Thackray Museum, in a former workhouse in the grounds of St James's Hospital in Leeds, was set up at a cost of £5 million, including a £3 million grant from the National Lottery fund. The listed building contains Europe's largest display on medicine and health.

Mike Cooper, the museum's chief executive, said that there appeared to be an unprecedented public preoccupation with medical matters. Television dramas and documentaries on the subject attracted big audiences. "We hope we have reflected some of this popular approach and made the subject interesting and fun."

As well as 25,000 medical objects, the museum houses a huge collection of literature. Displays include interactive computers and the history is sometimes depicted in gruesome detail. There is the chance to "walk round" the human body, and a reconstruction of a typical street of 1840s Britain, illustrating the unsanitary living conditions. There are details of crude remedies used in the past.

A section entitled "Pain, Pus and Blood" shows how the discoveries of anaesthetics, antiseptics, and of how to control blood loss led to today's sophisticated surgery. There is a reconstructed Victorian operating theatre, with a model of a child having an amputation without anaesthetic. In a section on childbirth, men can experience the difficulty of carrying a baby in late pregnancy by trying on an "empathy belly".

The museum is based on the private collection of Paul Thackray, whose great-grandfather, Charles, founded a firm supplying medical equipment and instruments. When the business was sold in 1990, he set up a charitable trust which donated £1.8 million to the setting-up costs. The museum will be opened next Monday by Robert Anderson, of the British Museum.

Comet may have caused ancient city's cataclysmic end

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

A CITY famed throughout the ancient world may have been destroyed by a meteorite or comet. According to legend, Ubar, in Oman was wiped off the face of the Earth by fire from the sky as God's punishment for its evil ways, in a fate similar to that of Sodom and Gomorrah.

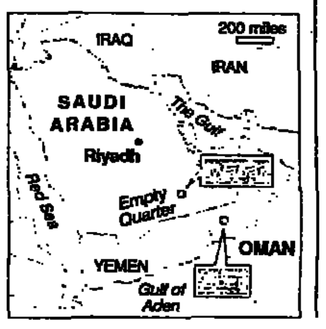
An American astronomer has concluded that there may be truth in the story. Gerrit Verschuur, a radio-astronomer from the University of Memphis, points to the existence near the site of Ubar of impact craters caused by meteorites or comets.

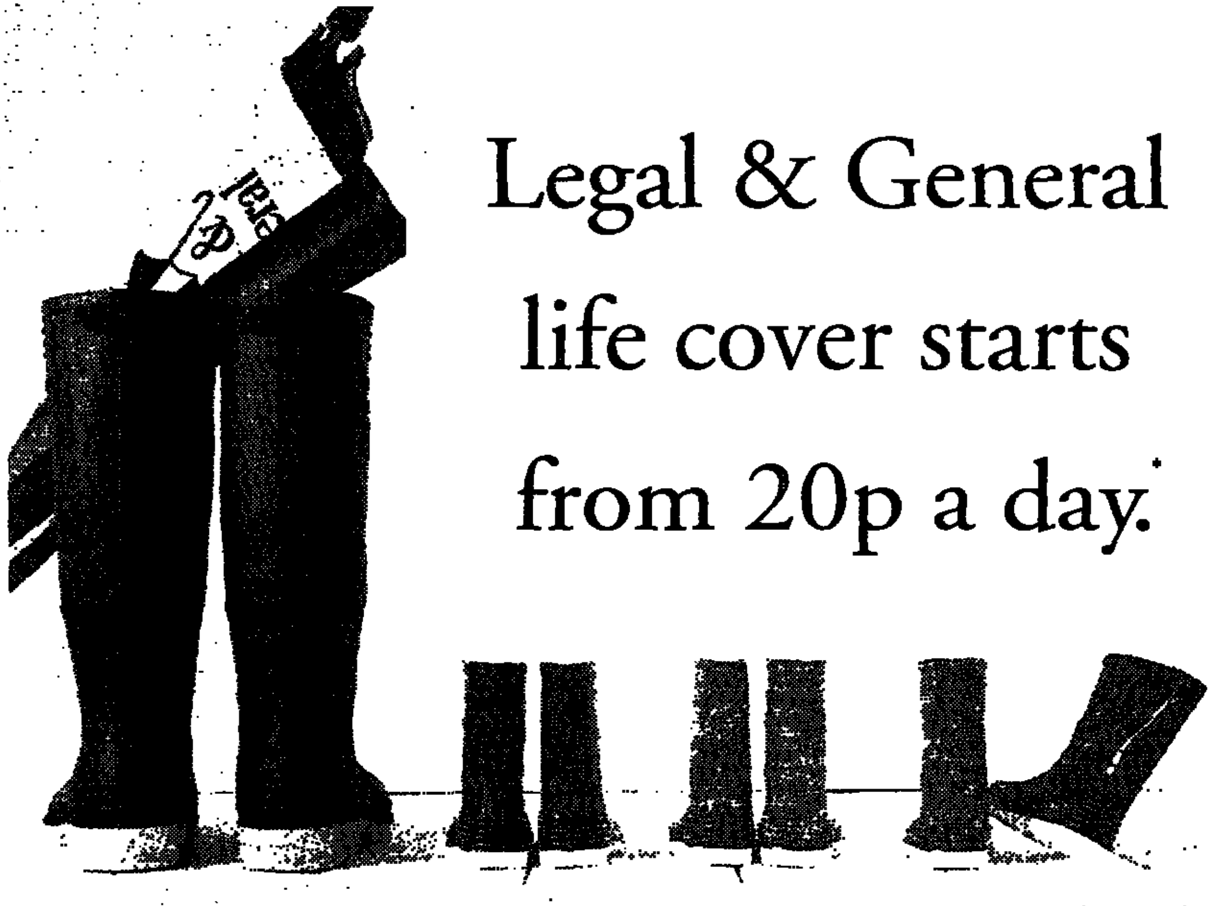
The city, which lay in the Empty Quarter of the Arabian desert, had grown rich by trading in frankincense, which was as precious as gold. Described by Lawrence of Arabia as the Atlantis of the sands, its ruins were discovered in 1992 by an expedition led by Sir Ranulph Fiennes. The craters were first described more than 50 years ago by St John Philby, the Arabist scholar and father of the spy Kim Philby. In his book *The Empty Quarter*, published in 1933, Philby described craters at Wabar, some of the most impressive in the world.

Their existence seems to have been neglected by astronomers, perhaps because they are in one of the most inhospitable places in the world. Michael Saba, an American hospital administrator and Middle Eastern enthusiast, has led several expeditions to them. "The largest is about 150 metres across, the second is 80-90 metres and [the third] 12-13 metres," he said. "They must have been formed by an object that broke up as it came through the atmosphere."

In 1995 Dr Saba took one of the world's experts on impact craters, Eugene Shoemaker, to see the craters, some 200 miles from Ubar. Dr Shoemaker was the co-discoverer of the comet Shoemaker-Levy, which collided with Jupiter in 1994. He dated them to about AD 500, about the time that Ubar was destroyed.

Dr Verschuur says: "The evidence that Ubar was wiped out in a cataclysm is very strong. The city walls were blown down and everybody was killed. Putting one and one together suggests to me that the inhabitants of Ubar were victims of the impact that created the Wabar craters."





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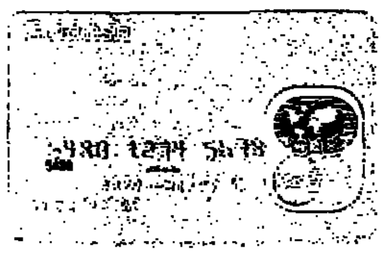

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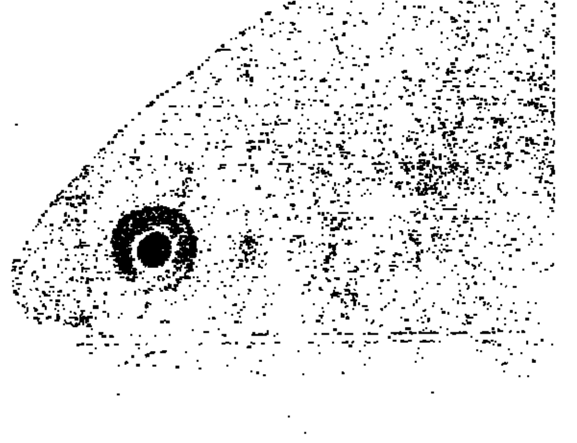

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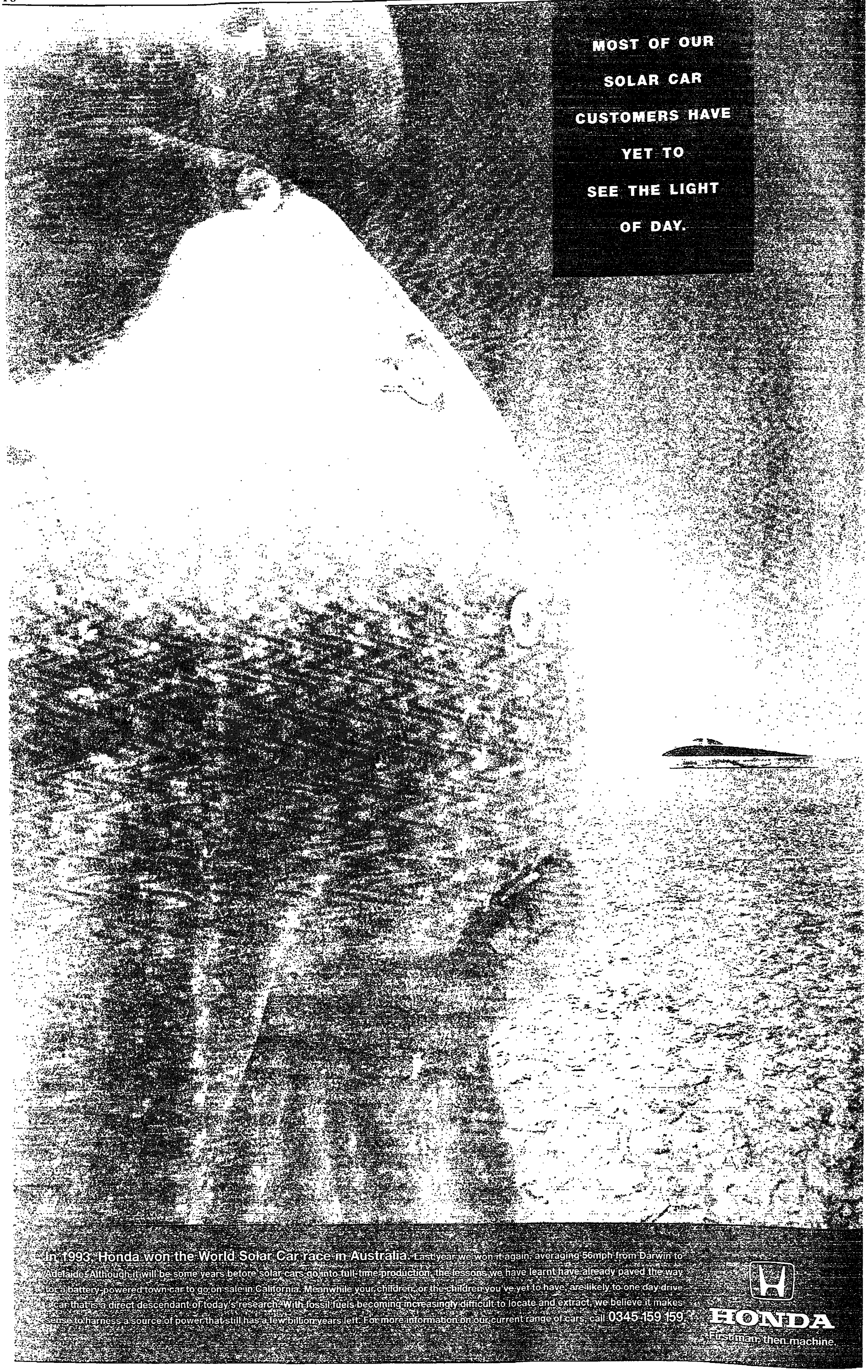

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French banks kept millions belonging to Holocaust Jews

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

RENCH banks held on to illions of pounds in assets longing to Jews murdered the Holocaust, according to w evidence suggesting that ench bankers profited from e Nazi pillage in the same ay as Swiss counterparts.

French accounts belonging Jews were blocked on Nazi ermany's orders in 1941, but study ten years later showed at thousands remained unimed, their owners having rished in Nazi concentran camps during the Second orld War. Today the acunts are worth at least l billion (£125 million).

Under French law, all acunts inactive for 30 years ust be turned over to the overnment, but according to *Monde* there is no evidence huge transfers to the state in e 1970s when the 30-year riod expired. Instead of rrendering the money, ench banks allegedly took action, allowing the assets "vanish".

"These accounts disapared without trace, abrbed amid general indifferce by the huge bureaucratic achine of the public and ivate banking network," *Le onde* said. The report has ompted a fresh wave of trage in France after the entscandal over unclaimed taken from Jews that mairs in French museums d new evidence that Vichy gime officials seized valules and property from ench Jews deported to the ath camps.

Jewish groups claim that Swiss banks hold up to £4 billion in murdered Jews' assets — the banks put the figure nearer £17 million — but the *Le Monde* allegations are the first to accuse French bankers of similar actions.

More than 76,000 Jews were deported from France. After the war, many frozen accounts were reactivated, either by Holocaust survivors or the families of the victims. However, the 1951 study recorded at least 3,000 accounts still unclaimed at that date.

Le Monde says only one such account has been made over to the French treasury since the 1966 law required banks to surrender inactive accounts. The Bank of France and Crédit Lyonnais, for example, held more than 1,000 unclaimed accounts between them. No trace of those has been found.

The French Banks' Association responded to the report by declaring flatly that "French banks respected the law", but it added that individual banks would carry out research into unclaimed accounts. Crédit Lyonnais has already launched such an investigation. However, many banking records have been lost or destroyed in the past 50 years.

Coming two weeks before a government commission begins an investigation into the fate of property confiscated from French Jews, the allegations have led to a fresh bout of soul-searching as France struggles to come to terms with its wartime past.

☐ **Zurich:** One of Switzerland's biggest banks said yesterday that it had offered to compensate a Czech family of Holocaust survivors whose Swiss bank account was closed in 1941 without their approval. It would not disclose the amount offered.

Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) said its review of the case, unearthed by a Swiss newspaper, found it was impossible to determine what happened to the money, but it would offer compensation as a gesture of goodwill.

Gertrud Erismann, for UBS, said the bank was prepared to do the same thing in other cases if former wartime account holders could make a solid case that wealth they deposited for safekeeping from Hitler had vanished without a trace. *(Reuter)*

Neo-Nazis face 'cemetery' court

Marseilles: Four French neo-Nazis go on trial today for a 1990 anti-Semitic graveyard outrage which caused nationwide revulsion and prompted a huge protest march in Paris, led by François Mitterrand, who was then President. They are accused of unearthing and desecrating the recently buried body of Félix Germon in a Jewish cemetery. ***(Reuter)***

REUTER

King Hussein comforts the father of Sivan Fatihi, 13, who was shot last week

King's sympathy visit to parents moves Israelis

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

IN A gesture unprecedented in the bloody history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, King Hussein of Jordan yesterday braved the fury of Islamic extremists and visited the homes of the Jewish families who lost teenage daughters in last week's massacre by a Jordanian soldier.

His harrowing progress through grief-stricken homes in the nondescript working class town of Beit Shemesh was condemned by a Palestinian spokesman as "an exaggeration" and "superfluous" and by an Israeli right-wing group, the Women in Green, as "cynically using the suffering of the parents".

It came as the ailing Middle East peace process was plunged into a new crisis when Palestinian representatives refused to attend talks on the final status issues, including Jerusalem, that had been due to open today.

Israel's Army was placed on red alert in anticipation of Palestinian mass unrest if building work starts this week as planned on the new settlement of Har Homa in occupied east Jerusalem, which was captured from Jordan in 1967.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, accompanied the king as interpreter. Three thousand Israeli soldiers and police officers were on duty in a protection operation codenamed "Operation Warm Feeling".

In moving scenes which amazed many Israelis, the king, in a suit and traditional red-chequered *kefiya* headdress, grasped the hands of families sitting in tears on blankets on the floor during the Jewish seven-day mourning period. Some spoke in Arabic to the king, who brought along two of his children, Prince Faisal and Princess Aisha.

Grief-stricken relations offered the Hashemite monarch the biblical welcoming platter of bread and salt and most praised his gesture. Their children, seven girls aged 12 and 13, were mown down by a hail of bullets on a piece of border territory known as the Hill of Peace.

"The memory of your daughter will live with me forever. I hope her memory will give you strength," the king told the grieving parents of Sivan Fatihi, 13. His voice close to breaking, the king added: "Your loss is my loss."

As rain poured relentlessly on the Jordanian leader, most ordinary Israelis applauded what one Jerusalem office worker described as "the courage and sincerity" of his visit, which had been hastily coordinated between the Israeli and Jordanian security services. The office worker added as she watched Israel television's coverage of the tour: "If only all the Arab leaders were like Hussein, we would have real peace."

Last night, Tzachi Hanegbi, the Israeli Justice Minister, threatened that Israel would expel Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, from Gaza to the Palestinian diaspora if mass violence occurred in Palestinian areas when work on the Har Home settlement started. The minister also hinted that Mossad agents could assassinate him.

ndia makes peaceful overtures to Pakistan in bid to end 50-year conflict

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

NDIA will make exceptional ertures to Pakistan this month to ormalise relations after 50 years hostility in which there have een three wars and growing angers of nuclear conflict.

It will seek to open cross-border ade and ease visa restrictions, nd will offer to begin talks on a sting solution to the Kashmir onflict. It will also propose negotiations to end a stalemate in the war on the Siachen Glacier in the Himalayas, the world's highest battleground.

With an apparently more conciliatory government in office in Pakistan and an Indian determination to improve relations, the prospects for defusing one of the world's most dangerous flashpoints have never been better. The rhetoric of war has abruptly given way to a new language of conciliation in Islamabad and Delhi, with both sides expressing hope that the two countries — home to 20 per cent of the world's population — can agree on a series of measures.

They are to restart the tradition of regular talks between their foreign secretaries. Agreement on the first round, between March 28 and 31 in Delhi, is a result of the change of government in Pakistan last month, which brought Nawaz Sharif to power. He has frequently asserted the need to end conflict with India. Delhi will propose the establishment of joint working groups to discuss Kashmir and other sensitive issues. It is apparently prepared to give up its territorial claims over Pakistani Kashmir, and to agree to the 1947 ceasefire line — the line dividing Indian and Pakistani Kashmir — becoming a permanent international border. Islamabad would likewise have to give up its claim to Indian Kashmir.

Delhi is ready to demilitarise the Siachen Glacier, where troops fight at 20,000ft for control of an uninhabitable and strategically unimportant no man's land, so long as Pakistan agrees a simultaneous withdrawal. The 13-year conflict is probably the world's most pointless war.

I.K. Gujral, the Indian External Affairs Minister, told *The Times*: "It is an ambition of my life that we and Pakistan should sort things out. If concessions are called for on both sides, then both of us should be willing to adjust and accommodate." Mr Gujral, 76, has made it a personal mission to normalise relations. He was born in Jhelum and married in Lahore, in what is now Pakistan. "We have emotional feelings for the people of that country. I look at this problem in a very human sense. We should behave decently to each other."

He added that despite war and animosity at a political level, the people of Pakistan and India were not estranged. India had a vested interest in a peaceful, unified, integrated and developing Pakistan, he said.

☐ Islamabad: Gohar Ayub, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, said a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute could allow real friendship to develop with India. "Let's get to the core and then live as good friends," he told reporters. India and Pakistan had "both realised the importance of bilateral discussions if they are to witness a stable future". *(Reuter)*

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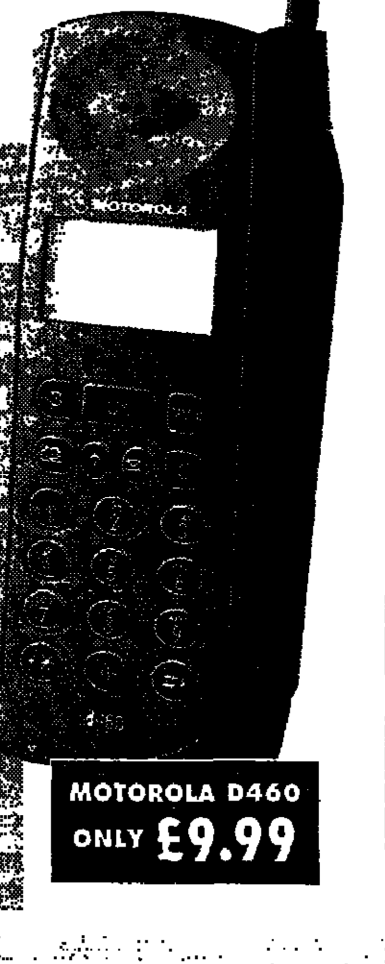

Exile for the fortunate and despair for those left behind follow Albania's descent into chaos

Child vandals join the destruction at King Zog's palace

FROM TOM WALKER IN DURRES

LITTLE was left in the palace of the former King Zog yesterday as the orgy of looting that has despoilt the Albanian port of Durres ground to a close.

Left to their own devices, a gang of children systematically smashed the fittings and masonry of one of Albania's finest buildings, shrieking with delight as they sent tons of marble crashing down its elaborate central stairwell.

The Italianate palace, built in the 1930s on an old Roman site, commands a fine view. Neither the king nor his usurper Enver Hoxha would have been amused.

While the *Lord of the Flies* mayhem continued inside, a crowd of 4,000 would-be boat people thronged the harbour front, pushing a rusting iron launch towards the water. Further south along the beach, 150 Turks queued for dinghies taking them to a waiting frigate. American marines hovered over the churning surf in Cobra helicopters.

Zog, Hoxha, Sali Berisha, the beleaguered President: each is responsible for today's anarchy. A tribal society isolated from the world for half a century and then suddenly catapulted towards capitalism: something had to give, and the scenes in Durres yesterday were the consequence.

Police and vigilantes in garish fleece balaclavas had returned a sort of order, and the frenzied shooting and anarchy that prevailed last week was over. But in its place has come a tide of despair: while children and government-hired thugs rule the roost, ordinary people and the few foreigners prepared to invest in Albania want to get out — quickly.

"I'm not happy thinking about jumping into a boat or swimming for it, but this is what the Government has done to me," said a six-month-pregnant Etleva Lalaj as she joined the waterfront crowd. "The country's heading for civil war," said her husband Steven. Occasionally, automatic fire provoked a massed rush for cover.

"Berisha should be hanged: I'll do it with my own hands," said Kuhtim Alush, a 22-year-old clothing retailer. Many said they had tried to jump on boats in the past, most notably in the 1991 exodus, when 40,000 made the perilous trip to Italy. Many had already been abroad illegally, only to be deported.

Among the prosperous beachfront villas in the government compound, those who had invested in Albania's flawed experiment in market democracy were trying to pick up the pieces. Simona Braci, the district manager of Incat, a British construction and trading firm, pointed out bullet holes in the ceiling, the result of her husband Luli's attempts to keep out looters last week.

Later the raiders stuck guns in his stomach and stole the company lorry. But in comparison to many in the compound they were lucky. Most savagely wrecked was President Berisha's own seafront residence: all that remained in the grass outside were a pair of pink slippers, a German magazine and a broken lavatory seat.

The compound gate is now guarded by a Kalashnikov-carrying youth in a purple ski mask with tassles. Albania's tradition of blood feuds is still very much alive and terrorist disguises are now *de rigueur* among the new forces of authority. "If they have to shoot anyone, they may have trouble in the future with the victim's families. It's best not to be seen," explained Mrs Braci. "We are quite an ancient society."

As evening drew in, two women emerged from King Zog's palace with the last remaining furniture — half a door, ten feet of ornately fluted hardwood.

"It'll burn nicely," said Hamida, a nearby resident. "These people were all scum."

Leading article, Letters, page 21
Photograph, page 24

Italy defends delay

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN BRINDISI

ITALY defended yesterday its evacuation on Friday of British refugees from the Albanian port of Durres, denying that Italian special forces had deliberately left the Britons to endure a night of terror at the mercy of armed Albanians before coming back to rescue them nearly seven hours later.

Officials said the rescue had been temporarily suspended because of shooting and fog, and had resumed at daylight. "An evacuation is not a picnic," an Italian Foreign Ministry official said. "We carried out the operation to the very best of our ability in extremely difficult circumstances".

The British Embassy in Rome praised the Italian recue effort. "We asked them to get the British out safe and well, and that it what they did," said Keith Broomfield, the British Minister in Rome.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said it had clearly been a difficult operation, with "large numbers of people milling around on the beach, including many Albanians, some of whom were violent, some of whom were themselves trying to flee". There were only 20 Italian troops at the quay.

Sixty four British evacuees emerged angry and exhausted from the *San Giusto*. They said they had driven in convoy from the British Embassy in Tirana to Durres, where their cars, including the British Ambassador's Discovery, had been stolen.

YANNIS BEHRAKIS / REU

Albanians watch a US Marine helicopter take off yesterday near the port of Durres as America continued to evacuate foreign citizens

War gives Coke taste of the real thin

Anthony Loyd reports from Tirana on the determination of an Italian executive and his helpers to defend their factory

THE Coca-Cola war at the edge of Tirana is being fought with assault rifles and hand grenades rather than advertising campaigns.

While American expatriates have all but fled the anarchic Albanian capital, airlifted out in a fleet of Marine helicopters, the factory's smooth Italian director is holding out in Albania's only Coke factory with 20 armed deputies, repelling marauding gangs in a series of gunfights along the perimeter fence.

"Why should I leave?" Francesco De Candia, the director, asks coolly inside his office. "It's not war at the moment, just a problem with people who don't know the meaning of democracy or law."

His efforts to protect the factory rely so far on the loyalty of the Albanian family which owns the site. The heavily-armed Lorcka cousins have organised themselves into a series of patrols and defensive positions, determined to protect the three-year-old factory — which produces 80 million bottles of Coke a year — and its 40 vehicles from looters.

So far they have had four firefights in 48 hours, holding their ground against the equally well-armed gangs outside. Every few hours a police armoured personnel carrier cruises in to support them. "We trust the police," Signor De Candia says. "They are brave boys and they will protect Coca-Cola as it is a symbol in Albania — a symbol of freedom".

Yesterday President Berisha vowed to retain his position in the face of insurgent demands to resign. Speaking to the Dutch Ambassador in Tirana, Mr Berisha said he would remain President of Albania at least until the results of planned elections in June, according to Hans van Mierlo, the Dutch Foreign Minister.

"The President has not yet resigned but he told the Dutch Ambassador in Tirana that he would stand down if his party loses the upcoming elections," Mr van Mierlo said.

Tirana's shattered authorities are now further divided between those whose sympathies lie with Mr Berisha, those loyal to the fledgling four-day-old Government of National Reconciliation and others supporting the insurrectionists.

As the capital grapples with lawlessness and rebellion vigilante groups are trying to retake control from the mobs. The defence force at Tirana airport, for example, includes baggage handlers and waiters who have fortified their positions using luggage trolleys and check-in desks.

It is ironic that the insurrection, which began to overthrow Albania's perceived dictatorship, has given rise to even worse repression. Responding to a call from the new Minister of Justice on Saturday, hundreds of volunteers have joined isolated police units for a bounty of $200 dollars (£125) a month plus police pay of a further $100. They do not have to produce any references but are given a gun and ammunition, and impose their own law at will.

"We are going through a new dictatorship," said a youth in Lezhe, a small town north of Tirana. "The police can beat you up for offences that once you would b fi for. We are fed up wit th fascists."

Berisha, yesterday: says he will stay on for polls

The arrival of th r auxiliaries has stabilised situation in the centre Tirana more throug a mate of fear than anyth else, but elsewhere Alban roads resemble scenes fro spaghetti western. Child stop travellers to sell th ammunition while rival po forces vie for control.

One northern Tirana s urb is held by a group ni named "the Chechen Originally from mountain country in northern Alba birthplace of Mr Berisha, heavily armed men hardcore Berisha loyali and vow to fight any atten to remove him with force.

"If he resigns it's war," o of the group's command said. "We don't care about Government, but we'll figh protect our President."

On a roadway between rana and Borizane gove ment police and their ne hired gunmen fought w each other after the "vol teers" began beating up driver and passenger of a for no apparent reason. "U yesterday they were killer said a young uniformed liceman in disgust. "Now t are killers with a licence."

Anarchy feeds arms trade in Balkans

BY JAMES PETTIFER

REPORTS yesterday of Kosovo Albanians buying weapons in Durres and Vlore are bound to send chills down regional spines and Albania's neighbours are preparing for the worst. The $300 package in Durres is for about a dozen AK47s and a vanload of ammunition.

Controlling small arms transfers in the Balkans is a near-impossibility. Closing borders may help, but not much. In the north, the Dinaric Alps on the Montenegran border are a good barrier and crossings are heavily policed by tough squads of Milosevic-trained heavies. But the Buna River, once the frontier of the Ottoman world, let through gallons of diesel despite United Nations sanctions.

To the northeast, 90 per cent Albanian-inhabited Kosovo in southeast Serbia is problematic. It seems inevitable that the Kosovo Liberation Army can move supplies on remote paths in the Black Drin valley to their growing guerrilla movement.

It is in Macedonia, in the east, that the risk of a wider conflict may be greatest. The 25 per cent Albanian minority live along the border and are dissatisfied with their status.

To the south, Greece's problems concern people, not guns — thousands more will swell the normal refugee flow.

The bringers of humanitarian aid face a dilemma. Crossing any Albanian border is not a step a neighbour will take in a hurry. Their overwhelming impulse is to seal off the country.

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Hong Kong emigrants dump disabled children

By Catherine Field in Hong Kong and Bill Frost

DISABLED children are being abandoned by desperate Hong Kong families seeking to emigrate before the Chinese takeover. At least 12 handicapped children have been left in one home, colony authorities confirmed yesterday. One six-year-old girl has been made ward of court after her parents went abroad.

Many hostels were set up to cash in on the growing number needing such accommodation, the owners advertising in local Chinese-language newspapers. Social workers say that scores of young people with disabilities such as Down's syndrome and autism have been placed at hostels so parents can skirt laws barring would-be emigrants with dependants whose care could be a drain on the public purse. Their destinations are Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. Some parents are believed to have abandoned children before coming to Britain in the mistaken belief that it, too, demands a large sum to cover treatment.

"The decision of families is a personal one and must be a difficult decision, taken in the light of the policies of the receiving countries," a Hong Kong government spokesman said last night. "It is not appropriate to be judgmental when families are faced with these extreme decisions."

One young woman, San, was placed in a home two years ago when her parents left for Canada with her younger brother and sister. The departure, long planned by her family, was traumatic for the 21-year-old mentally handicapped young woman, who had always lived at home. By day she works at a sheltered workshop, packing plastic cutlery into polythene bags. At nights, say her carers, San laments that she misses her mother and hopes she will come back.

San, and possibly scores like her, are a dark and unpalatable secret of Hong Kong in the last years of British rule. There are no figures for the numbers left behind in Hong Kong. Hostel staff are not allowed to disclose details.

"Out of 120 residents here, 12 are from families who have emigrated," says Pong Kwok Boon, director of the Pui Chak Hostel in the New Territories. "Families know if they apply to emigrate with a handicapped child, then their application will be turned down."

Yin is in her late teens and has lived at Pui Chak for two years. She has mild Down's syndrome; she knows her parents have gone to Canada with her two brothers. In another hostel, not far from Pui Chak, are yet more cases. Bing, 32, lived with her parents until they left for Canada. Staff know virtually nothing about her, except that, when two, she suffered a fever and has been mentally handicapped since.

There have been waves of emigration since the 1984 Sino-British agreement on the colony's return to China. Emigration rose after the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989. Between 1988 and the end of 1995, 434,000 people left Hong Kong. Final figures for 1996 are not yet available, but estimates put them at 90,000. Many return once they have a foreign passport that will enable them to flee should the handover go badly wrong. Those now seeking to emigrate are the desperate last batch before the July 1 handover: professionals who have been hesitating about leaving or scratching together enough money to do so.

Michael DeGolyer, head of the Transition Project at Hong Kong's Baptist University, says it is easy, and wrong, to demonise those who have handed over a son or daughter. "Most people in Hong Kong assess things on a pragmatic basis. They realise that emigrating with a disabled child would be far worse than leaving them because the whole financial burden would fall directly on them when they are most vulnerable and lack support."

Private hostels cost between £350 and £600 a month.

Welfare representatives are concerned that the family link could weaken and money will no longer be sent. Ivy Kung, of Hong Kong's Society for the Relief of Disabled Children, said: "Taking care of these people will become a burden on the community."

> ‘ Families know if they apply to emigrate with a handicapped child, they will be turned down ’

THOMAS CHENG / AFP

San, left, and Yin, left by parents who feared the girls would jeopardise their chances of a new life in Canada

Mobutu delays return as rebels eye Kinshasa

From Sam Kiley in Kinshasa

ZAIRE'S President Mobutu cancelled plans to return to the country from the South of France yesterday after rebels marched into Kisangani over the weekend and their leader pledged to send his troops to Kinshasa, the capital.

The loss of Zaire's third largest city was seen in Kinshasa as a potentially fatal blow to Mr Mobutu's moribund Government, and spells the end of the rule by Africa's longest-serving dictator.

"It is very unlikely that Mr Mobutu will return home now. A non-government, massive unpopularity and the very real threat that the rebels could turn up in his capital are hardly enticing prospects for a man already fighting cancer," a Western ambassador in Kinshasa said.

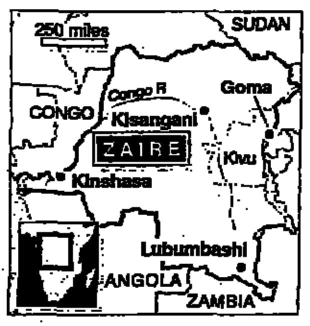
Leon Kengo wa Dondo, the Prime Minister, was due to leave for talks in Nairobi yesterday. Mr Kengo is not expected to return to Kinshasa after he was recently overheard saying that if there were serious problems in the capital, he would be the first to leave.

In Kisangani on Friday night Serb mercenaries fought government troops they were supposed to be supporting after the Zaireans began fleeing from the rebel advance. The mercenaries fled towards the city's second airport where they were rescued by French commandos who also evacuated about 16 foreign aid workers.

Zairean soldiers leapt into the River Congo to escape after most of the city's cars were stolen by their comrades who fled west. Casualties were reported to have been light as the rebels moved into the undefended city.

Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader whose troops took Kisangani, is now the most powerful man in Zaire. "We are now thinking of going up to Kinshasa," Mr Kabila said at his base at Goma.

His Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation (Congo-Zaire) continued to advance into the mineral-rich Shaba province and a rebel spokesman said that Lubumbashi, the provincial capital, will be their next target.



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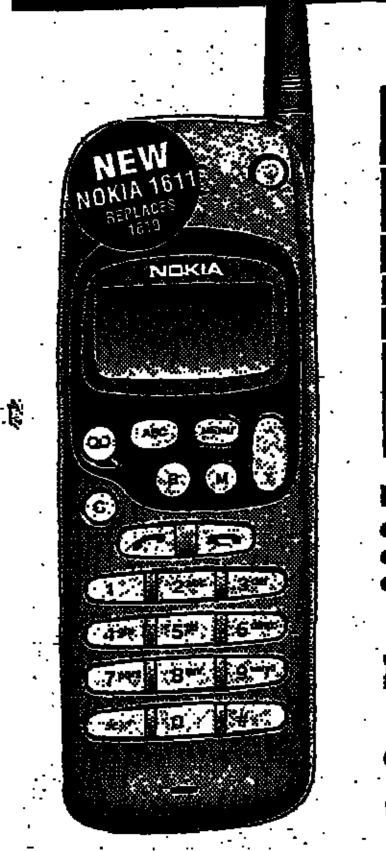

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Zealous apostle of competition lays down EU law in the marketplace

THIS WEEK IN EUROPE

If the name Karel van Miert rings any bells in Britain, it probably also brings images of European Union inspectors raiding the *Football Association* or Brussels' threats to block British Airways *from joining* forces with American Airlines.

Mr van Miert, the Commissioner who polices the rules of competition, was the man behind both of those actions. The London raid, one of *several in Europe last year*, has confirmed suspicions of abuse *in the pricing of match* balls and Fifa, the world football body, can expect legal action, officials say.

In the BA affair, the usually *amiable Belgian* had no qualms about calling Robert Avling, the airline boss, a liar when he dropped into his office in January. His offence had been to suggest *that the* Commissioner was gunning for BA after nodding through rival alliances.

The deceptively mild-looking Commissioner enjoys little favour in Britain, where politicians have charged him with interference or bowing to political pressure to approve bail-outs of dinosaur enterprises in other states. But Mr van Miert, one of the few commissioners with real *power, has stirred hostility* everywhere in the EU, as he has axed monopolies, resisted mergers and picked fights with governments.

Outside Britain, however, he is usually branded as the *agent of "Anglo-Saxon"* doctrine, an opponent of "social Europe" who stops governments saving jobs. In France, where he put the squeeze on *the Crédit Lyonnais bank and* other teetering behemoths, he is now under attack for refusing to approve aid to the textile industry. The Germans have not recovered from his bitter offensive last *year to stop them giving state* payouts to Volkswagen and *failing shipyards.*

The farmer's son from Flanders has also become a villain at home for forcing the closure of steel mills in French-speaking Wallonia. He has just restored some *credit by blocking aid to the* Spanish operations of Renault in retaliation for its *abrupt closure of its Belgian* plant. That action has exposed him to French charges of Belgian pique.

This week, the grumbling will come from America when Mr van Miert reaches out to far away Seattle. He is to launch a full investigation *to decide whether* the Boeing company's £8 billion takeover of McDonnell Douglas will hurt the European aerospace business.

Philip Condit, Boeing's chief, who is under no illusion about Mr van Miert's potential for causing trouble, pleaded his case in Brussels last week. Mr van *Miert, 55, shrugs off the* hostility. The universal protest, he says, is a sign of his even-handedness as he umpires the European playing field.

The zeal of the trust-busting *Belgian* was an unpleasant surprise for those who were *relieved* in 1993 when Jacques Delors, then President of the Commission, appointed him to succeed the "ultra-liberal" Sir Leon Brittan.

As a former leader of the *Flemish Socialist Party, he* had been expected to take a more *"humane"* view towards job protection.

In his defence he says: "If you accept the idea that the market economy is the best system, or the least bad, then you have to make sure that it works so that our economies can create jobs."

Some *supporters* are surprised by the emotion which Mr van Miert applies to his crusade. Erkki Liikanen, the Finnish commissioner, says: "For a man of the north, he is very Latin. He gets angry."

British officials, batting for BA, say Mr van Miert's emotions are still those of a continental leftist and they detect an old-fashioned aversion to the commercial success of BA.

Mr van Miert *is confident* that he will see off a big challenge *to his fief.* This is a drive by Germany to strip the Commission of its powers over competition and hand them to a new agency outside Brussels. Bonn says the Commission should not initiate policy as well as police it.

Mr van Miert dismisses the scheme as *wrongheaded.* Why add another level of red tape, *he argues,* for a body that would probably be more prone to government pressure than the Commission?

CHARLES BREMNER

KGB man opens old sores over atom spies

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

A RETIRED KGB agent reopened an historical sore for the United States yesterday, *claiming that Julius and Ethel* Rosenberg, the couple America executed for espionage in 1953, were not directly involved in selling secrets of the *atom bomb to Russia.*

Aleksandr Feklisov, in separate interviews with American newspapers yesterday, said the couple were unjustly executed *after their* sensational treason trial. He described as absurd the sentencing judge's assertion that the couple had "altered the course of human history".

However, the former KGB colonel who acted as Julius Rosenberg's controller in New York, said he had handed him dozens of military secrets, including an early *"smart bomb" mechanism.*

The deaths of the Rosenbergs have remained one of the most divisive and enduring controversies in modern *American history. They went* to their deaths insistent that they were the innocent victims of a government conspiracy.

Mr Feklisov, 86, insisted *that* Ethel Rosenberg had never had any direct contact with Soviet intelligence and that her husband "didn't undertand anything about the *atomic bomb and couldn't* help us".

Europe's workers march on Brussels to defend jobs

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE pain of the Continent's *chronic unemployment spilled* on to the streets of Brussels yesterday when tens of thousands marched through the seat of the European Union *institutions, turning their* wrath on its failure to set limits to the free market for the sake of jobs.

The abrupt closure of Belgium's *Renault plant at* Vilvoorde was the trigger for what the organisers called the first "pan-European march", attended by union leaders and prominent leftwingers such as Lionel Jospin, chief of the French Socialist party and former presidential candidate. Police said 50,000 people trudged the two miles from Brussels North Station to its *South Station, while* organisers estimated the figure at 150,000.

Pride of place was given to a hanging effigy of Louis Schweitzer, *the chief of the* French car company, who gave the order to dismiss the 3,000 workers of Vilvoorde, turning the suburban plant *into a symbol of Europe's* anger over unemployment, which is at an average of 12 per cent.

The slogans and chants of thousands of workers and their families, mainly from Belgium, France, The Neth*erlands and Germany, were* aimed less at Renault than at the pain inflicted by the rigours of the deregulated market and what is widely seen as *the EU's failure to protect its* workers.

"Europe equals free movement of unemployment", said one slogan. "No to a Europe of *money. For work and Social* Europe", said another. Robert Hue, leader of the French Communist Party, said: "Today we are attending the burial of Maastricht."

The 1992 treaty, which sets tough fiscal conditions for economic and monetary union, has become a byword for what the unions and much of the continental public sees *as the onset of untrammelled* "Anglo-Saxon" capitalism in the EU.

Yesterday's spectacular demonstration followed noisy *protests by thousands of striking* miners in Bonn and unrest in France and Belgium as unemployment shows no sign of abating.

The *Renault* closure, which boosted the company's shares, shocked politicians in Brussels and across the Continent into pledging tougher action to preserve the "European social model", the jargon for the labour regulation and welfare *system* which is gradually unravelling under pressure from the globalised economy. Criticism of Renault focused on the company's failure to *give its workers any hint of the* plant's imminent closure.

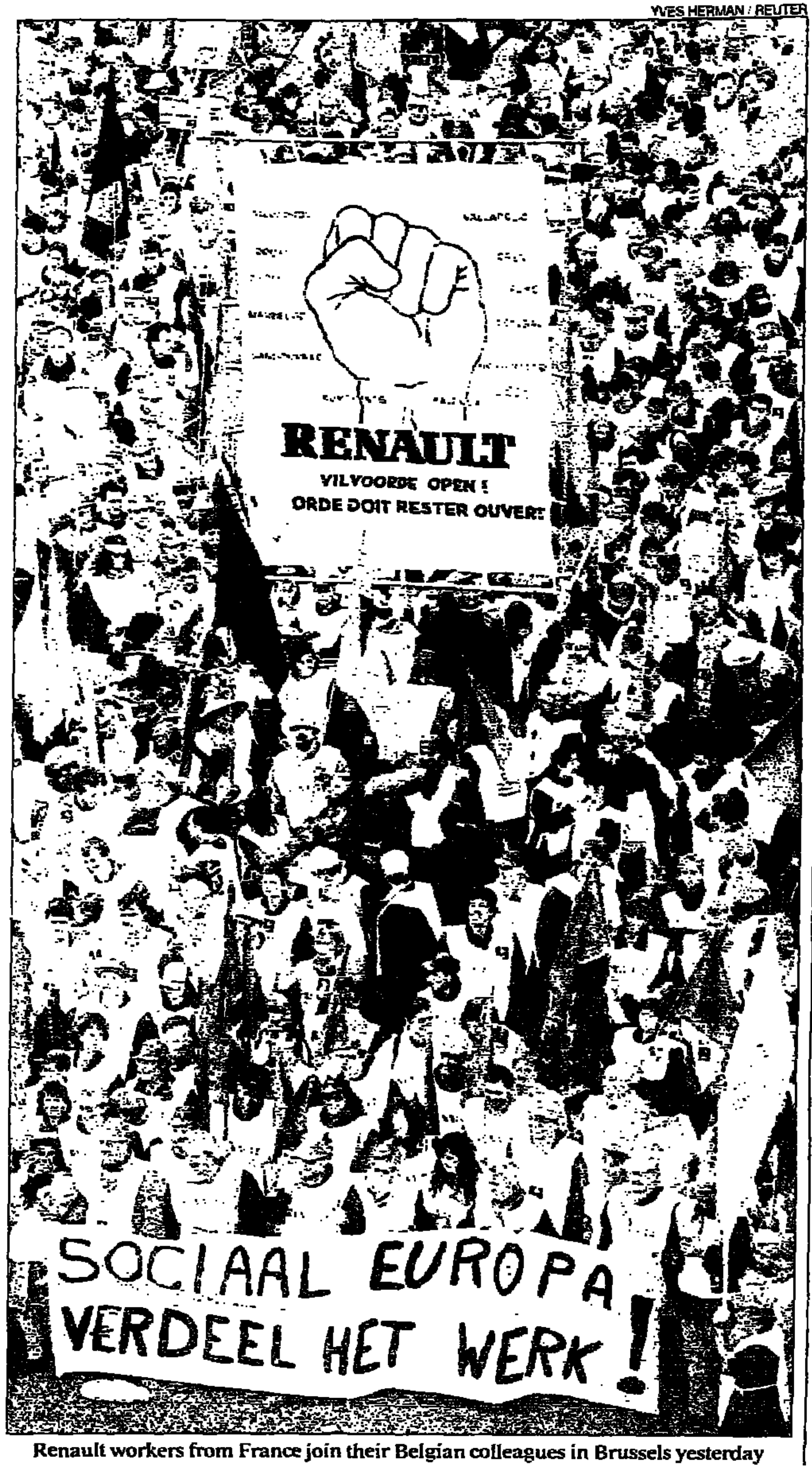
Meeting in Rotterdam yesterday, the EU's social affairs ministers called for a code of *conduct to ensure a* period of consultation with workers whenever a business wants to close.

Some politicians in yesterday's *peaceful* march sought to distance themselves from the criticism of the EU and Maastricht. M Jospin, whose party was founded by the late President Mitterrand, said: "We need a better balance in *the European economic and* social model. It has gone too far in liberalisation."

Renault sales in Belgium were reported to have dropped *by 40 per cent since the* Vilvoorde affair began two weeks ago.

☐ **Paris:** Several thousand doctors and striking staff at state-run *Paris* hospitals marched in protest against *new rules limiting the money* they spend in their practice. They claim the Government wants them to "ration care". *(AP)*

YVES HERMAN / REUTER



Renault workers from France join their Belgian colleagues in Brussels yesterday

WORLD SUMMARY

Knee injury setback for summit

Washington: The injury to President Clinton's right knee has delayed his Helsinki summit meeting with President Yeltsin by a day (Tom Rhodes writes).

The White House said yesterday the delay would allow Mr Clinton more time to *recover from his operation* last Friday to re-attach the quadriceps tendon he tore at the Florida home of Greg Norman, the golfer. The President *will leave Washington on* Wednesday and arrive in Finland on Thursday.

Bride in refuge

Islamabad: Saima Waheed, *22, the bride who disappeared* after winning the Pakistani Supreme Court's sanction for her marriage, is safe in a women's shelter here after *seeking refuge, the shelter* director said. She vanished after she said she had been threatened by relations angry that she married without her parents' approval. *(AP)*

Rifkind rebuffed

Hong Kong: Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, said that Britain would not have *the right to "meddle in Hong* Kong affairs" after the transfer of sovereignty on July 1 (Jonathan Mirsky writes). He was commenting on a state*ment by Malcolm Rifkind, the* Foreign Secretary, that he intended to monitor the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

Toast to health

Moscow: Russian *doctors* in the southern city of Krasnodar claim to have invented a vodka that is truly good for health. Containing silver ions *and passed through a magnet*ic field, it is said to have "antibiotic qualities and a curative effect". *(Reuter)*

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US plans mother of all warships

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

THE AMERICAN Navy has designed its latest ship with pregnant sailors in mind. The LPD17, an amphibious transport and assault vessel, which will ferry Marines into future war zones, is thought to be the first fighting ship in the world produced to accommodate expectant mothers.

Such is the Pentagon's adherence to the creed of mixed-gender opportunities that naval architects were ordered to consider pregnant women from the first stage of work on the assault vessel and to make every effort to ensure life on board will be comfortable.

Design notes from the project, newly published, paid detailed attention to safety measures for "pregnant sailors and Marines up to the twentieth week of pregnancy" and their unborn babies. Designers *were asked to identify* "spaces that are hazardous to foetuses".

Captain Mike John, a Navy spokesman, said that all American *naval vessels* are now designed "from keel up" *for women on board.*

Thomas Duffy, editor of *Inside the Navy*, said tours of duty on board an LPD17 can last up to six months, and the *design briefings appeared to* indicate that the Navy was preparing to cope with pregnancies that started during those months.

"A sailor might become pregnant during a deployment. That is why the Navy needs to take these things into account," he said.

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Bluffer's guide to the world of science

Anjana Ahuja on a layman's lesson in the intricacies of modern scientific theory

If you have ever wanted to learn how to bluff your way in science, then this is the perfect time to start. Why? Because over the next few weeks, the entire country will be under siege from men and women in white coats.

National Science Engineering and Technology Week, otherwise known as Set 97, started on Friday. It will be followed by the Edinburgh International Science Festival, which runs until early April.

For the interested non-specialist, a guide to the latest ideas will be essential — which is where *Who's Afraid of Schrodinger's Cat?* comes in. A pithy, readable collection of mini-essays, it provides a useful overview of current science.

FUZZY LOGIC

WESTERN logic began with Aristotle and is modelled on the precise thinking and categories of mathematics. In mathematics, 2 plus 2 equals 4, never 4½ or 5. In logic, a is *either* A or not A; it is never *both* A *and* not A. It has been an all-or-nothing logic that admits neither contradictions nor shades of grey.

But fuzzy logic is at home with contradictions. It is a logic that stresses matters of degree and all those shades of grey that exist between black and white. A chief proponent of fuzzy logic, the mathematician Bart Kosko, illustrates the principle with an apple. An Aristotelian would say that it either is or is not an apple. But what happens when we take a bite? Is it still an apple? Perhaps we take another bite, and still another, until there is nothing left. At some point the apple changes from an apple to a non-apple.

The half apple is a "fuzzy" apple, a key to understanding fuzzy technology. Suppose engineers want to make an intelligent traffic light that can time itself to change from red to green at different intervals, depending upon how light or heavy the traffic flow is. The binary switch of a digital computer is too crude to do this. Binary switches are either on or off. But fuzzy chips that allow traffic lights to readjust constantly have now been invented.

Fuzzy chips and machine circuits are modelled on the brain's own system of neural nets, in which each neuron is connected in a "messy" way to up to 10,000 other neurons. Like these brain circuits, fuzzy chips learn as they go, constantly readjusting.

RONALD GRANT

The mysterious world of the mad professor will become more accessible if you mug up on the terminology of modern science

THE GAME OF LIFE

THE Game of Life was devised by John Conway, an English mathematician. The rules of the game are simple. A computer screen begins with a random pattern of black and white squares. White squares represent living cells and black ones, dead cells.

In the next step, each square responds to what is happening in its neighbourhood of eight adjacent squares. If there are too many white squares, it dies of overcrowding; too few, and life is not possible.

Only if a square has two or three living neighbours (white squares) will it live in the next generation. Likewise, a dead square (black) will come to life if it has two or three white neighbours.

As the computer goes through successive steps, colonies of white cells grow and oscillate or "breathe". Others break off and wander around the screen. Some shapes look like parasites that eat everything in their path. Using an extremely simple algorithm, Conway made a computer screen appear like the world seen when a drop of water is viewed under a microscope.

Since the patterns on the screen reproduce themselves, move, and consume their rivals, it is tempting to ask if that world within the computer is in some sense "alive".

LANGUAGE

LANGUAGE is thought to be a uniquely human ability. But it is an ability about which philosophers and scientists of the mind continue to disagree. Where does language come from? Is it the same as thinking?

Behaviourists such as B.F. Skinner have argued that we learn languages by association, like conditional reflexes. We hear "apple" when shown apples, and soon make the association. But Noam Chomsky showed that human beings can both generate and understand sentences they have never heard before. And much of our language refers to abstract concepts such as truth or beauty.

Chomsky believes that we have a special language faculty, apart from general intelligence, and that we are born with it. But his attempts to formulate our innate linguistic rules have had only limited success.

Chomsky says that we can apply the rules of any linguistic system correctly without knowing the meanings of the words involved. If true, this would lend great support to the argument that the brain functions like a computer, with language as its software. But there are only limited cases where it applies.

According to Steven Pinker, language is acquired through evolution. Our ancestors found they could survive more effectively if they could speak, so those with the ability won the evolutionary race. Critics of Pinker, among them Chomsky, feel evolution is an inadequate explanation of how language appeared so suddenly and so exclusively.

THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING

A THEORY of Everything is a longed-for, all-embracing theory of the Universe that will unify matter, forces and curved space-time in one grand picture that applies from the first split second after the Big Bang. Such a theory has not been achieved so far.

Before the Universe was 10^{-36} seconds old, our physics can successfully describe one kind of matter, one kind of force and curved space-time. But the three things cannot be combined.

Of course, it remains the physicists' assumption that a Theory of Everything actually exists and that scientists merely have to look for it. Armed with such a theory, physicists could calculate in principle all the properties and processes of elementary particles. Physics itself would not necessarily come to an end: interesting and difficult problems will still exist. But if a Theory of Everything was achieved, there would be a feeling that physics had at last touched the ultimate level of matter.

● *Adapted from* Who's Afraid of Schrodinger's Cat? *by Ian Marshall and Danar Zohar, published on April 10 by Bloomsbury (£19.99). To order call 01634 297123.*

A new way to identify polymers ☐ How race affects metabolism ☐ Setting a trap for antimatter ☐ The 2,400-year-old fingerprints

Polyana puts a name to plastic

SCIENCE BRIEFING

◆

Nigel Hawkes

A TEAM at Southampton University has solved one of the great conundrums of materials science — how to tell one plastic from another quickly and easily.

Even for experts it is extremely difficult to distinguish plastics, which is vital if they are to be recycled. "If you mix different plastics together and try to melt them down, you just get a big mess," says Peter Mucci, head of the Prototype Group in the mechanical engineering department at Southampton.

"The industry has got so good at mimicking other's products that they look identical even when they're not. In a car, for example, the plastic in the ashtray is designed to resist heat, while the fascia is made of plastic designed to resist impact — but they both look the same".

Ford, which supported the research, is now using one of the university's machines on a car dismantling line in Germany. The operator shines an infra-red light at a flat section of each piece of plastic and gets a readout saying what the plastic is, together with a "match value" — a measure of the reliability of the identification.

"It might say this is PVC, and the identification is 90 per cent certain," Mr Mucci says. "If the certainty is low, the operator knows it may not be the right material." Soon the public will be able to try the machine at the Science Museum in London. The machine, called Polyana, for polymer analyser, measures the spectrum of the infra-red radiation reflected from the sample. This is determined by the molecular structure of the plastic.

Polyana can identify up to 200 plastics in three seconds. "You do need a half-decent surface to bounce the radiation off," says Mr Mucci, "but almost every item has at least one flat surface you can use."

The machine will be used by carmakers, under increasing pressure to recycle plastics, by plastic recycling companies and by other product manufacturers anxious to know what materials their rivals are using.

"This is a first," says Mr Mucci. "Now all I've got to work out is how to make a kiddie-proof version for the Science Museum."

Weighing up the evidence

LOTS of people who are overweight blame their metabolism. In the majority of cases this is merely wishful thinking — by consistently eating less, they would lose weight.

Overweight black women, however, may take a little comfort from a study recently conducted at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Centre in Philadelphia.

Dr Gary Foster and colleagues compared the resting metabolic rate of 166 women, 44 of whom were black and the rest white. They were all overweight, scaling an average of 16 stones. Resting metabolic rate is the rate at which the body burns calories when it is ticking over, and acounts for two thirds of the calories burnt.

The team reports in *Obesity Research* that the black women had a resting metabolic rate 100 calories lower than the white women — meaning that they would have to diet that much harder to achieve the same weight loss.

This may explain why 50 per cent of black women in America are overweight, compared with a mere 33 per cent of their white sisters.

Physicists seek warp factor

EUROPE's physicists have engaged their warp drive, and are racing to trap antimatter. Followers of *Star Trek* will know that antimatter provides the power for the *USS Enterprise*. In the real world antiatoms have been observed only fleetingly in particle accelerators, created by the collisions between antiprotons and positrons.

Now the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) in Geneva has raised the money for a trap designed to slow down antiprotons so that antihydrogen atoms can be studied at rest. Several CERN members — excluding Britain — have chipped in, and Japan has made a major contribution. Lasers will be used to slow the antiatoms and trap them for study.

By 1999 they should be catching 1,000 antihydrogen atoms an hour. The idea is to see if antihydrogen has exactly the same properties as hydrogen: if not, physicists will have to swallow hard and think again about their ideas on symmetry. Warp drives are not on the agenda.

Potters who left their prints

GREEK potters are finally having their fingerprints taken, 2,400 years after they carelessly left them on vases in a workshop in southern Italy. The prints have been found on pottery fragments from a site called Metapontum, near Taranto. Archaeologists have found about 400 fingerprints, some left in damp clay, others in paint, on fragments of about 40 vases. Analysis of the best-preserved ones, *Science* reports, has enabled four potters to be identified. One was a modeller, two were painters, and the other was a touch-up expert, making good tiny defects on finished pots.

Other prints make it possible to guess that the factory employed about 14 people. "These results are extremely exciting," says Francesco D'Andria, an archaeologist. "We can now set up an archive for attributing the vases to their individual painters, not only on the basis of style but on the unintentional signatures they left."

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MEN ONLY

Our recent series, *Aspects of Love*, found women talking candidly about their relationships. This week it is the men's turn. Below, writer **Tim Lott** exorcises some exquisitely embarrassing memories and, opposite, novelist **Frank Ronan** on paradoxes in the life of a gay man

Blunders on the way to the bedroom

PETER NICHOLLS

Memories can be good, bad and downright ugly — but Tim Lott resists the temptation to bury any of them

The best thing about memories is that, with a little effort, you can forget them. Painfully, there are exceptions. In my case, these phantoms usually recall a darkened room where bare desire has been transmuted into naked embarrassment.

Perhaps it is in the hope of exorcism that I intend to make confession of some of these tenacious hangovers. But before doing so, it helps me to remember that the afflictions of the past are universal.

This brings me to the tale of Martin Waterman, a friend with whom I once shared a school desk. At the time he was living with his parents, Frank and Olive, in Ealing. I knew them as kind, somewhat anxious, respectable people who were keen to see proprieties observed. The father would delight in showing off his Airfix models. The mother was a rotund, shy woman, and a home cook and housekeeper of great virtue. She kept her hair stiffly permed.

Martin had taken up with a new girlfriend — whom, incredibly, given what was to follow — he later married. In order to impress her, he had taken her to see a Russian art film in the West End. But after half an hour of considering the sway of wheat fields, he gave up and decided to surprise his parents and introduce them to his girlfriend.

They entered silently through the half-lit surburban hallway. I recall that there were etchings of cathedral towns standing above a collection of Lilliput Lane miniature cottages. Then into the living room, where he switched on the light and ushered Mary in.

— *Ta da!*

His parents were illuminated, performing quite naked. The 26in TV in maple cabinet, towards which they were both aligned, was exhibiting a single freeze-frame of perhaps the most objectionable moment of a famously obscene hard-core flick.

They did not move, as if cast in a 1950s burlesque tableau. Martin's mother could be seen reflected in the TV screen. Then, horrifically, Frank gave a slight but unmistakable nod of greeting. Michael resisted the temptation to nod back since this would clearly act as confirmation that what he beheld had truly taken place. Instead, he switched off the light and silently retreated, a different person into a transformed world.

> I used all the tricks; tongue, fingers, whispers, kisses

Compared with this, my memories are momentarily toothless. Until I remember them, that is.

One that consistently stabs at the heart involves a woman who, despite a long relationship, I never felt was attracted much to me, but who at the time I always hoped could be won over by tenderness and persistence or, more typically, blackmail.

One night — perhaps because it was my 23rd birthday — she gave in to my ministrations. Her closed eyelids fluttered: her breathing deepened. She succumbed relaxed into the moment.

I used all the tricks that I had read in a borrowed *Cosmopolitan* — tongue, fingers, whispers, kisses, constructed a fugue; when the moment of completion came close, I felt I had entirely beaten down her indifference, alchemised all the base material that customarily separated us and would loosen the moorings that held her within.

I then became aware that the sound I had taken to be representative of the wakening giant within her — a strengthening, deepening pattern of breathing, rising and falling in volume alongside my own rhythm, had altered. Now it was less reminiscent of the exaltation of the soul and more like the dissection of knotted lumber with an old breadknife.

I stopped. The noise continued, loudening, harshening. Under her closed eyelids, rapid eye movement. After a few more seconds, the snores died away, leaving an empty space into which I could tenderly collapse into ruins.

> Her snores died, leaving an empty space

I have always been possessed of the power to bring forth the quality of Zen detachment in women. One partner, who, despite the bookish, *rive gauche* appearance that attracted me to her in the first place, liked to relax by watching junk TV. She had *EastEnders* on at a time when my libido began to broadcast insistent messages both downwards and outwards.

She eventually gave in to what I can only characterise as my persistent whining: the TV was left switched on.

After 15 minutes or so, during which time she appeared to be advancing theatrically towards what I took to be a common purpose, I noticed that her left hand was still holding the TV remote control implacably. Then I caught the slightest movement of the thumb. I dismissed it as an involuntary reflex.

This rationalisation became impossible to maintain when, minutes later, the same movement occurred again: and I noticed for the first time that Grant Mitchell's voice was becoming more and more audible above the clamour of my imprecations. "You're bang out of order. Leave my mum out of this. Or you'll have me to contend with for starters."

Or something along those lines.

If only things had improved after the closing credits; but she turned out to be an equally committed viewer of *Children's Hospital*.

I compensate for these moments with other, nourishing memories of women who have seemed more genuinely enthusiastic. But you can never be sure. One, a demure advertising copywriter whom I thought I had driven beyond the frontiers of her reticent personality into impossible, fibrillating, almost violent ecstasy, turned out merely to have suffered a two-minute epileptic fit brought on by too much alcohol.

Alcohol is my favourite weapon in getting women to sleep with me. If caught at the point just before unconsciousness, they are quite suggestible, but drink is a very crude instrument. One particular seducee had been drawn to me by mutual enthusiasm for the literary wino and olympic regurgitant Charles Bukowski. Thus, when she moved to meet my embrace, then vomited reprovingly on each of my knees, I should not, I suppose, have been as taken aback as I in fact was.

Not that I was discouraged. Because, oddly, I retain a sort of addiction to even the worst of my recollections, for all the discomfort they assail me with. And I remain happy to keep on piling them up, blunders and all. This is because once they were the present; so it is the present, that most ridiculous speck, that I am addicted to. And if you are not prepared to be ridiculous, you are refusing to acknowledge what it is to be a person — or perhaps more pertinently, what it is to be a man.

- *All the names have been changed.*
- The Scent of Dried Roses *by Tim Lott is published by Viking, £16.*

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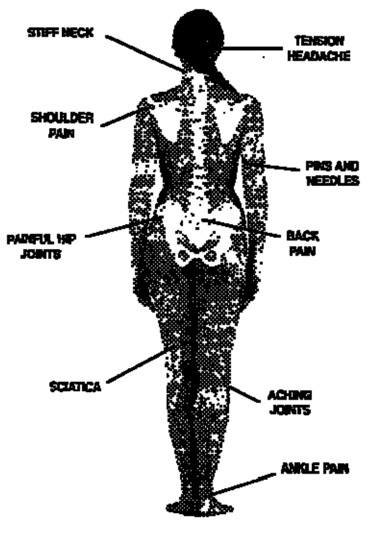

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The novelist Alexander Stuart on danger, disorder and high erotic anxiety

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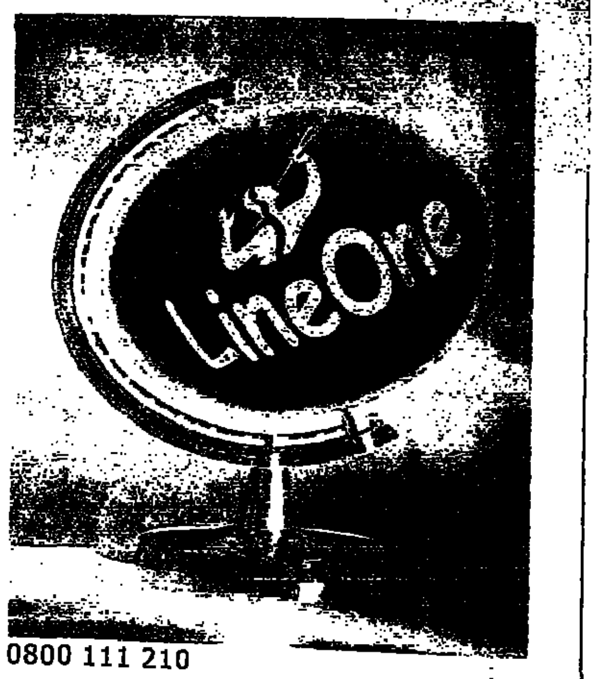

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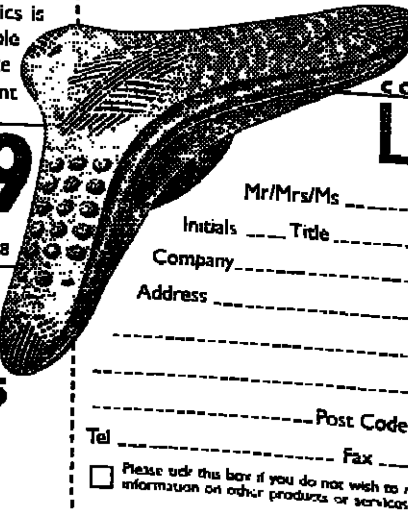

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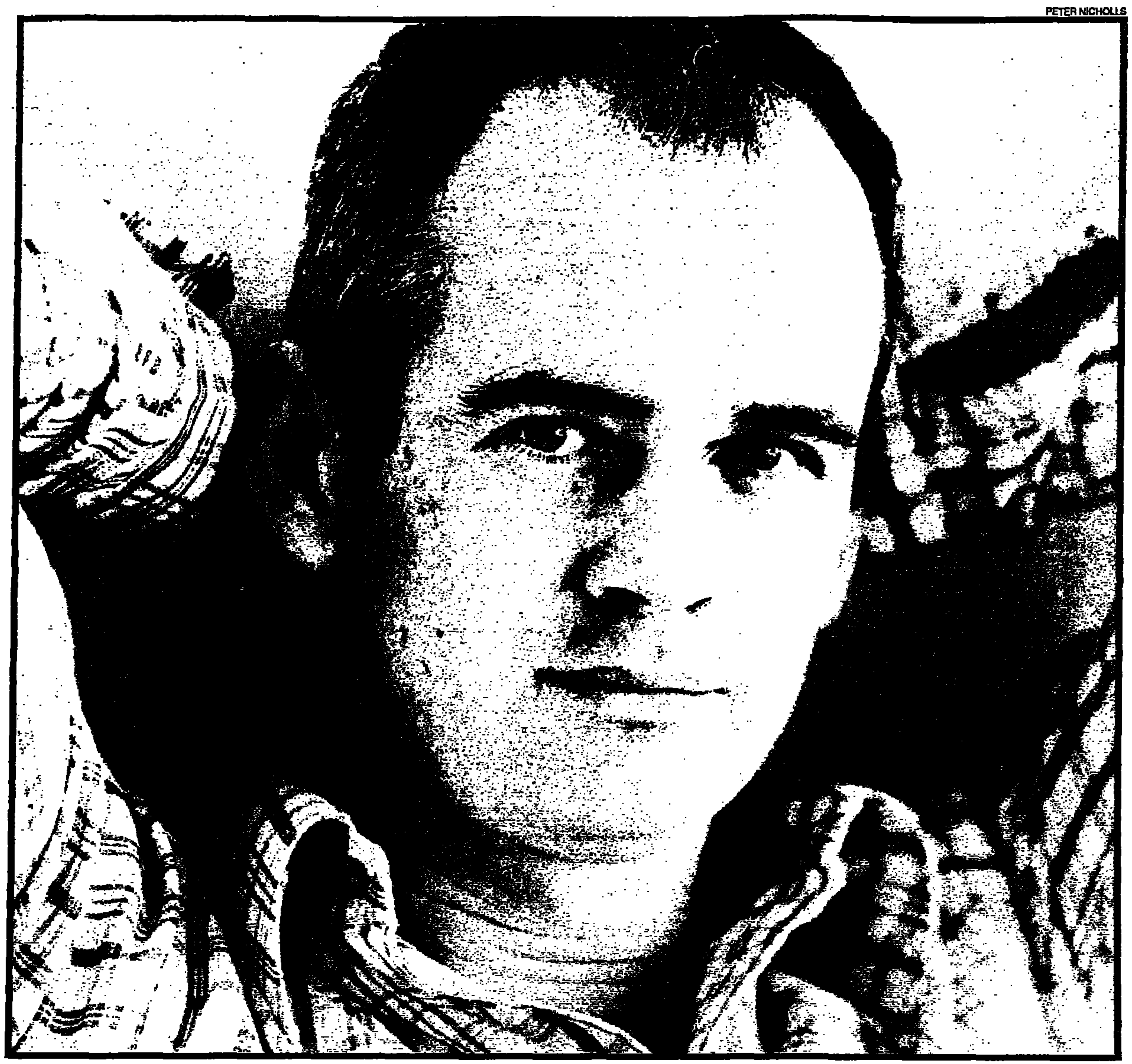
What if you decide that having children is as important as sexual happiness? You may have to choose between your urges

PETER NICHOLLS



Frank Ronan: "It is a well-known fact that some blokes fancy women and some other blokes fancy blokes and this concession to reality makes things better, but not much"

Sex is an emotion and, for most of us, a private one at that. In the hierarchy of emotions, it is a hard one to place. In the past it was considered a base instinct, and one which should not be indulged, unless you were fortunate enough to be married to the object of your fantasies.

We are liberated, closetless, unashamed. Millions of us are happier than we could have been at any other point in history. As the world becomes a more educated and tolerant place, millions more will join us and all the barriers will come down and all fathers will be proud of their gay sons and sons of their gay fathers just like it says on the T-shirts in Central Park and these Nineties will be remembered as a pioneering time in which our planet took another step towards perfection.

Or perhaps not. Sex is an emotion and so, like any emotion, is the same for everybody and different for everyone. Emotions are slippery customers. Sex is a different thing when you're getting it how you like it from when you're getting it how you don't like it from when you're not getting it at all from when you're getting when you should or shouldn't, and depending who's defining should and shouldn't.

You can see how our forefathers came to the conclusion that it was easier just to ban the whole bloody thing, apart from that end of it which was concerned with ensuring our existence, though why they should take so much trouble over us while having such a vile time themselves is hard to fathom. Unless, of course, the people making the rules then were the undersexed: those who didn't have to think about sex every eight seconds or however much it is the rest of us do, and were thus free to become the people who made the rules. There must have been something odd about them if they thought that all blokes would fancy women because the law said so.

In these, enlightened, times it is a well-known fact that some blokes fancy women and some other blokes fancy blokes and this concession to reality makes things better, but not much. True, we blokes now have a choice and if we don't want to be straight we can be gay.

We can eschew football, procreation and bad haircuts in favour of nightclubs, body piercing and tasteful furnishings. We should be grateful, but there are a lot of us who are troublesome enough to demur. Perhaps we want to eat our cake and have it. Perhaps we would just like to be allowed to be ourselves.

Blokes who are gay like to exchange coming-out stories. In some ways it is how they establish a sort of pecking order. You get most Brownie points for having known exactly what you were from the age of eight and never once having been tempted to try sleeping with a woman.

At the other end of the scale are the ones who have sired entire broods and were only forced into the open by being caught at it in a public lavatory. These latter stories, if they are told (we are at our most revisionist when it comes to our personal histories), are related with a sense of shame, as if there is something wrong with having tried to lead a normal life and having failed. As though the fact that you fancy other blokes means that you shouldn't want the things that the normal demand by right: children, privacy, respectability and a community which is not necessarily made up of people exactly like you.

My own coming-out story (except that I never think the phrase applies to me) lies somewhere in the middle of these extremes. As an adolescent I fell in love with men but also, confusingly, enjoyed sex with women.

For most of my twenties I was in love with a woman and was largely untroubled by thoughts of blokes. That relationship ended four years ago. Various romantic episodes in the year which followed persuaded me that if I were to stand a chance of pursuing a lifelong partnership, it would have to be with a man.

I'm with a man now and things are looking good but I won't say any more about it than that because, as I've said, it's private. But the point is, as you can see, I'm a bit of a Flurry Knox as far as my gay credentials are concerned (Flurry was, you will remember, a gentleman among stableboys and a stableboy among gentlemen). Being a novelist, I've been able to turn all that ambivalence and confusion to advantage. Being a note-take on the fringe of society I never really had that much to hide: I was free to experiment and had time to think about it. But I can't imagine how difficult life would have been if I'd wanted to live in Port Talbot and pursue a career in British Steel.

Which is exactly what I'm trying to say. What do you do if being gay is incompatible with all the other things you want to do with your life? Sex may have been elevated in the hierarchy of emotions, but not everyone wants to sacrifice their careers or their families for the sake of it.

What if you decide that having children is as important to you as sexual happiness? You may have to choose between your urges, and it may be that from your vantage point in straight society (which is where we all come from, oddly enough), the stereotypical gay identity may not seem that attractive.

> As an adolescent I fell in love with men but also, confusingly, I still enjoyed sex with women

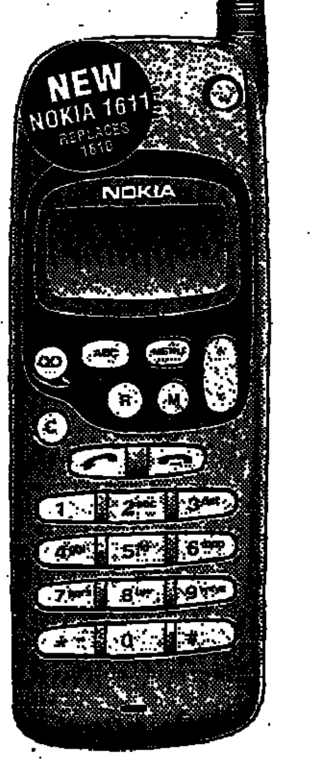
Being gay, for many, is a package, and once you put your nose outside the closet you will find all sorts of people telling you what gay men like and what they are like, and a refusal to conform will be seen as political incorrectness (I've always thought Judy Garland an irritatingly neurotic soak but I could be lynched for saying so).

It's hardly a wonder that so many blokes stay in Port Talbot and keep their sexuality under wraps, rear their children and fake it in the shower room. That may be why there are such vast numbers of male prostitutes and so many gay chatlines (advertising themselves in laddish magazines).

You can be an ordinary dad and fancy blokes in secret, but it's trickier to be an ordinary gay and have your kids on the quiet. With the former option you could be one of those blokes who never helps with the housework, in case she suspects you of being sensitive; who lives in fear that your children will hate you if they ever find out, because you have taught them to hate gays as part of your cover.

I'll come clean. I want children: both of us do. It is a project with so many inherent difficulties that it may never be possible. Funnily enough, in these rent-a-womb and clone-a-Dolly days the physical barriers might not be insuperable, but we'd always be an oddity: the child would stand out, and children hate to stand out. That doesn't mean that we won't work out a way to do it, but we're up against a whole society which says that we are wrong even to consider it. Which is a shame, because I know we'd make a better job of parenthood than my parents ever could have, but then sex was a dirty word to them. To us it is the emotion by which we are judged.

● *Frank Ronan's fifth novel,* Lovely, *is published today by Sceptre Paperback, £6.99*



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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD

■ VISUAL ART

A Royal Academy show pays tribute to the Berlin of the great satirist, *George Grosz*

OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Tomorrow

■ OPERA

Hans Werner Henze's *Elegy for Young Lovers* is revived at Symphony Hall in Birmingham

CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ POP

Hey, hey, we're the Monkees — and we're back with a show at Wembley Arena

GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

■ BOOKS

The letters of Arthur Ransome are published as *Signalling from Mars*

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

Ideas to set the imagination on fire

To the Royal Institution last Friday to hear the biographer Mr Richard Holmes lecture on the lost lectures of Mr *Coleridge the poet, delivered in* that very place in 1808. A splendid turnout, a lecture tailored with care, containing anecdote and analysis in equal measure and elegantly performed between the clock's striking nine and ten as has been the custom there for generations.

In the private discussions which followed, the subjects of chemistry *and poetry jostled together*, *echoing* the closeness of the friendship between the chemist Humphry Davy and the poet. Afterwards in Albermarle Street the cries were of Science and the Imagination, how *they conjoin and what a world* there was left yet to uncover.

Enough.

There was an exhibition on Coleridge in the library. What most took my fancy was the letter a young Coleridge wrote to *his* brother: "I have often been surprised that Mathematics, the quintessence of truth, should have found admirers so few and so languid. Frequent consideration and minute scrutiny have at length unravelled the cause viz that though Reason is Feasted. Imagination is Starved."

It was Davy who suggested that his friend deliver the lectures — five courses of five, fee £140 — to *the Royal Institution where* crowds for such events could be so dense that Albermarle Street became the first one-way street in London. At that time there were lectures on Chemistry, Botany and *Medicine but also on Persian* Literature, German Architecture and Moral Philosophy.

Coleridge's series of lectures have always been regarded as the biggest flop in the history of the Royal Institution. Thomas De Quincey attended one of them and described Coleridge — with the eye of an expert — as so far gone on opium that he had "a paralytic inability to raise the upper jaw from the lower". The poet skipped some lectures, turned up at others with that most shaming excuse that he had lost his notes somewhere along the way, but finally he delivered 18 of the lectures. Holmes makes a good case from the fragments remaining, that these lectures were as a laboratory for the poet (the use of laboratory is mine, not Holmes's). Out of this apparent debacle came his later soaring views on the Imagination, *particularly as demonstrated* through Shakespeare.

The part of Holmes's lecture which interested me most was the way in which the chemist Davy and the poet seem to have seen *themselves moving towards the* same end through their different disciplines. The end was to discover the one power which drove through everything. Davy's idea, I think, crudely, was that chemical *force and electrical force are* exactly the same thing and that all other forces come under that scheme of things. I was told that it is still thought by scientists today as a fertile explanation and it was taken up by Davy's great pupil Faraday. Faraday, I learn from his *biographer John Meurig Thomas*, wrote down at that very time: "Experiment is the servant of the Imagination." Coleridge looked for the energies of the eternal will through a profound contemplation on the nature of the imagination. Davy wrote: "Chemistry is professed with a passion of Hope."

The confluence is fascinating and the religious undertow unmistakable. To prepare himself to be the great philosophic poet, Coleridge went to Germany in his twenties to study both the natural sciences and biblical *scholarship — in fact the* whole range of knowledge available — and he was drawn into the German ideas of vitalism *and galvanism which* were setting up a Romantic challenge to the British Newtonian Universe. Coleridge saw Science as a way to truth and also as a great larder: "To renew my stock of metaphors." He used these with skill, as Holmes pointed out. For instance, when first he met Dorothy Wordsworth he wrote that "her taste is as perfect as an electrometer".

Coleridge conducted electrical experiments on himself just as Davy used himself as a subject — most notably with laughing gas. Davy was also a poet and the careful Wordsworth gave him the task of correcting the second edition of his precious *Lyrical Ballads*. Coleridge's science was perhaps less accomplished than Davy's poetry, although there were those in the audience last Friday night who nodded vigorously at his comment on the suggestion at that time of a Big Bang-type theory that "it is not beautiful enough".

Afterwards I was intoxicated at the thought that for a few years these two men were on parallel tracks. In a way the basis may have been alchemical and it is worth remembering that perhaps the greatest scientist of all, Newton, devoted much of his time and intellect to Alchemy, that Joseph Priestley's book on electricity could play a part in the shaping of Coleridge's poetic imagination and a profound part — as *distinct* from the designer stick-on of which Lewis Wolpert accuses several contemporary writers who try to embrace science — was an exhilarating insight into where eventual fusions of thought might lead.

Perhaps the Royal Institution will once again become the place in which we are told how the world is changing. The time seems ripe for scientists and artists to unite once again.

DONALD COOPER

Playing their scenes together perfectly: John Tomlinson as *Sachs* (left) and Thomas Allen *as Beckmesser in the Royal Opera's superb staging of Wagner's Die Meistersinger*

Higher and higher

OPERA: **Rodney Milnes** sees a brilliant Covent Garden revival of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

It is too soon to get misty-eyed, of course, but in a few short months this *Meistersinger* will be the last opera to be heard in the old Covent Garden theatre, and it is hard to imagine a better send-off to the dear, dusty old house, or to the resident company before they go on the road. Graham Vick's outstanding production, new four years ago, was always one of the glories of the Isaacs regime, and at Saturday's revival it was even better — which is as it should be.

Among the constants are Richard Hudson's brightly coloured sets and earthy *costumes — Breughel in Technicolor* — though some of the codpieces still look like the triumph of optimism over reasonable expectation. Vick's production is so unshowy that you hardly notice it's there — it couldn't be more chalky-cheese different from the Jones *Ring*, confirming that there are no rules in such matters. But re-rehearsal has brought new depths and insights, to which we will come later.

It would be wrong to cite Bernard Haitink as another constant. No two Haitink *performances are the same: each* one is a spontaneous act of musical creation. On Saturday he did not just give us "his" interpretation of *Meistersinger*, but a development of all *that had gone before*, *new-minted* in the light of long experience. Forward impulse never faltered — the six hours sped by — yet a sense of genial relaxation, of sheer enjoyment *in music-making, was equally* evident.

The last 20 minutes of the first act built to a near-Bacchic frenzy, cannily foreshadowing the second act riot and breakdown of civilisation-as-we-know-it, which he also took so fast as to risk a derailment that never came (all praise to Terry Edwards's chorus). Knife-edge stuff, fitting the action. As before, conducting and playing of the third act prelude made you wish that time would stand still. What a great and wise musician.

Other constants include Nancy Gustafson's almost impossibly pretty Eva, finding her warmest form in time for the Quintet: Gösta Winbergh's Mozartianly lyrical, *amazingly unstrained Walther*; Gwynne Howell's avuncular Pogner (still with a horrid wig); and Roderick Earle's perfect committee man of a Kothner. Herbert Lippert, *miscast as Strauss's Matteo* last year, was new as the apprentice David and enjoyed a signal success — the right voice, the right manner — and Catherine Wyn-Rogers's *sparky Magdalene fully justified* the changing of the line about her being "the old one".

Thomas Allen's prissily malevolent, wonderfully sung Beckmesser remains a miracle *of character-building through* music, with enough depth behind those not-quite-dead eyes to suggest reasons for the malevolence. This near-tragic figure (and if you wonder whether words and notes actually justify the impersonation, you don't do so until long after the final curtain) threatened to unbalance the whole production last time, which brings us to the biggest change, the giant strides forward taken by John Tomlinson's Sachs.

Four years ago he seemed bent on emphasising the cobbler-artisan at the expense of the poet; he has now struck a perfect balance. His singing has more *legato*, more variety of dynamic and nuance *without losing an iota of its* elemental power, and his response to the words shows new poetic insight: his *Fliedermonolog* was profoundly moving.

The ill-temper is still there, but the reasons for it are more clearly indicated, and the third act was truly a dark night of the soul. His Sachs is still a great bear of a man, which *makes the sensitivity he now* allows to break surface all the more affecting, and his essential good humour is in no way blunted: he and Allen play their comic scenes together *perfectly. Tomlinson's new* depths have indeed raised an already fine production to new heights.

Hitting the right programme notes

CONCERTS

OCCASIONALLY the **Hallé Orchestra's** monthly Opus series produces something which is both popular and special, *Gerald Larner writes*. Combine Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole* with Ravel's *Alborada del gracioso* and *Tzigane* and that's already the larger part of a cohesive and attractive programme. Debussy's *La Mer* does not quite fit in, but it is an unassailably high-quality score.

The misfortune was that Vadim Repin and Kent Nagano did not present the best possible case for the *Symphonie espagnole*. It needs to be so much more defined in melodic character than was achieved in Manchester's Bridgewater Hall on this occasion. Repin was much happier in the boastful gypsy idiom of *Tzigane*, which was delivered with virtuoso brilliance by soloist and orchestra alike. Kent Nagano conducted with a poetic instinct not so much to thrust every detail into high relief as to blend and integrate and trust in the *undercurrents* to carry the structural continuity — as they most effectively did.

TWO ambitious series — Radio 3's *Sounding the Century* and Simon Rattle's *Towards the Millennium* — collided at the Festival Hall on Wednesday night for Britten's *War Requiem*: one of the key masterpieces of the Sixties, *Barry Millington writes*. This was very much a *War Requiem* of our times. Andrea Gruber, the soprano soloist, is a rapidly rising star, while Rattle with his **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**, its chorus and youth chorus, offers a Nineties' perspective, which could account for the lack of a spiritual aura in this performance.

There were nevertheless some fine things. Simon Keenlyside gave an eloquent reading of *Be slowly lifted up, thou long black arm*, but Rattle's big guns were reserved for the first thrilling choral outburst recapitulating the *Dies Irae*. Then came Robert Tear's despairing rendering of *Move him into the sun*, Gruber's assured *Lacrimosa*, and a rapt reprise of the *Kyrie* music for the choral *Pie Jesu*. Keenlyside plumbed the depths of desolation with his *After the blast of lightning from the East*. Rattle then revealed that he had yet more in reserve for an overwhelming climax in the *Libera me*, at the return of the *Dies Irae*.

Penderecki's *Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima* proved an inspired coupling. Its final searing dissonance was for me the most harrowing moment of the evening.

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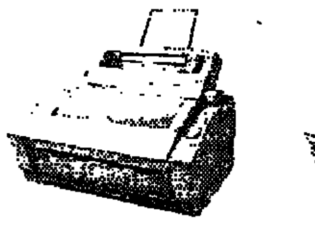

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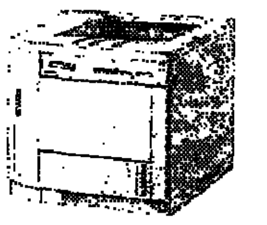

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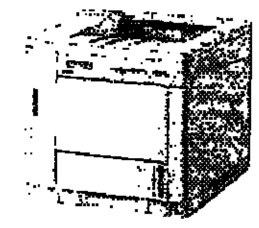

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REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

THEATRE: **Daniel Rosenthal** on Simon Callow's solo biographical tribute to the genius that was Oscar. Plus reviews

Wilde about the old boy

CHRIS HARRIS

Simon Callow, whose youthful obsession with Wilde led him to Dublin and the door of another theatrical giant, Micheál MacLiammóir

As a freshman at Queen's University, Belfast, in 1969, Simon Callow had an unforgettable journalistic encounter with the author and original star of the one-man show he is bringing to the West End.

Obsessed with Oscar Wilde, the 19-year-old Callow had sought out an LP recording of *The Importance of Being Oscar*, a biographical "entertainment" by the flamboyant "Irish" actor/manager who had co-founded Dublin's Gate Theatre.

Knowing that Micheál MacLiammóir was coming to Belfast to adjudicate the Irish Universities Drama Festival, Callow volunteered to interview him for the Queen's student newspaper. At the exotically furnished Dublin house which the 70-year-old MacLiammóir shared with his partner and Gate co-founder, Hilton Edwards, Callow met a man who had attempted to arrest the passage of time. "Micheál wore a preposterous toupée and extremely heavy make-up," recalls Callow. "But somehow he looked neither camp nor grotesque."

As they talked, MacLiammóir was "wonderfully amusing" about his career. He liked the published interview and was happy to have Callow guide him around the Belfast drama festival and act as his dresser for two performances of *The Importance*.

The show, first staged in Dublin in 1960, consists of extracts from Wilde's poetry, prose, letters and plays, woven together by MacLiammóir's wonderfully immediate and concise commentary. By 1969, he had delivered it hundreds of times in sold-out theatres from New York to Sydney. In Belfast's McMordie Hall, Callow watched him evoke Wilde's characters and genius with such skill that "he made 1,200 ordinary people feel fantastically witty".

"I already wanted to be an actor," says Callow, "but seeing Micheál command this magnetic fascination gave me a revelation of what acting could do." Nineteen years after MacLiammóir's death, that influence, and Callow's fascination with Wilde, makes *The Importance* "almost perfect" as a solo project.

Anyone inclined to compile an *Importance of Being Micheál* about MacLiammóir would not want for material. The man eventually described by Harold Hobson as "Ireland's finest actor" was born Alfred Willmore in north London in 1899. A beautiful, curly-haired boy, he earned rave notices and £2 a week as a child actor, delighting Edwardian London as Christopher Darling in *Peter Pan* (Noël Coward was one of the Lost Boys).

As an art student at the Slade school, he developed natural talents which would gain wide exposure in memorable costume and set designs for the Gate. Increasingly fascinated by Irish culture, he began to learn Gaelic and in 1917, a few months before his 18th birthday, the prospect of being called up prompted him to board a boat to Ireland.

Gradually he "became" an Irishman more completely than Dublin-born Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wilde had become English. He changed his name (MacLiammóir is a clumsy translation of Willmore), pretended he had been born in Cork, and attained such fluency in Gaelic that his mythological 1928 play, *Diarmuid agus Gráinne*, is widely regarded as the best drama written in Ireland's native tongue.

Returning to the stage in 1927, he met the English actor Hilton Edwards, and they formed a personal and professional relationship which lasted until MacLiammóir's death in 1978. They established the Gate in 1928 and for the next 40 years shepherded it through innumerable financial crises and critical triumphs.

Some 300 productions bore their stamp. MacLiammóir designed and acted, taking roles as varied as Hamlet and Adolf Hitler, as well as writing well-received plays of his own; Edwards directed and sometimes acted. In 1973 they became the first actors to be given the freedom of Dublin.

The incomparable Oscar Wilde, poet, author, playwright and wit

The Gate company's early line-ups included the 16-year-old Orson Welles, who would later say that "whatever I know about the stage arts is only an extension of what I knew from Hilton and Micheál". His decision to cast MacLiammóir as Iago in his 1949 film of *Othello* produced an extraordinary and rare screen performance.

MacLiammóir also wrote a much-admired *Othello* journal, *Put Money In Thy Purse*, which was one of the inspirations for Callow's 1995 biography of Welles (it defies all odds that despite being born 35 years and 3,000 miles apart, both biographer and subject should have fallen under MacLiammóir's spell in their teens).

According to Christopher FitzSimon, author of *The Boys*, a double biography of Edwards and MacLiammóir, the latter impressed everyone he met. "I interviewed 108 people who worked with Micheál, from programme sellers to Peggy Ashcroft," he says. "They were all thrilled to unleash their experiences."

● The Importance of Being Oscar *opens tomorrow at the Savoy Theatre (0171-836 8888) and runs until May 10*

Don't cry for this harpy, Argentina

Eva Peron
Citizens, Glasgow

"OH WHAT a circus, oh what a show" is a phrase that seems to apply to any dramatic rendering of the high life and low times of Argentina's self-styled leading lady. Yet this curious late 1960s affair from Eva's countryman Copi — or Raul Damonte if you prefer, although reinvention seems to have been all the rage back then — is no monument to a well-dressed legend.

Rather it presents Eva as a crazed harridan on her last cancer-ridden legs, warding off the family of vultures poised to swoop on her bank vaults the moment she dies. For while an empire totters on the streets outside, Eva's private queendom, made claustrophobic by the histrionics of its burnt-out decadence, is closing in on her.

While a nurse attends to her mistress's every whim, the great dictator himself is barely capable of addressing an envelope, never mind a nation. Waiting in the wings is Eva's greaseball brother Juancito, while mother makes five, leading from the bottle in a strictly family affair. Just who's screwing whom only becomes apparent later on, though, as what looks set to be a night of the long knives takes a bizarre twist.

After an eye-popping opening, Kenny Miller's production settles into a gloriously messy groove of screeching, grotesque cartoonery, making light of a seemingly even slighter work.

Coming at the tail end of a decade when a glimpse of stocking was still just about considered shocking, you can see how Copi's anything-goes approach appealed. Nearly 30 years on, Miller has dragged the play screaming into a retro-kitsch no-man's lounge of Brylcreemed tack and airbrushed glamour, beneath which lie crow's feet and chaos as Andrea Hart indulges Eva's every mood swing with maniacal largesse.

Eva here is a sharp-eyed Cinderella who went to the ball, had one, and, with her own personal midnight approaching, got out before the clock stopped ticking. And that's how icons are born.

NEIL COOPER

Maid to look silly

St Joan
New End, NW3

ROUSED to writerly anger by the way Joan of Arc has been appropriated by Jean-Marie Le Pen and the National Front, Julia Pascal attempts to reclaim the maiden for justice, truth and the multiracial way. Her Joan has a Jewish father, a Jamaican mother and she lives "in a European house of death". Such is her ethnic spread that Joan's dreamlike narrative is delivered by three actresses dressed in white shirts and breeches who reveal, with a little bit of tinkering, that she could have been the leader of all struggles against racism. Her unfortunate mistake was to be burnt at the stake in 1431.

Pascal's work has always been inextricably bound up with the Jewish experience, but this experiment to fit the story of St Joan's martyrdom around the current prejudice against Jews and Algerians in France has bemusing results.

With faces full of woe, the actresses spoonfeed us the racially inspired horrors of the past thousand years. The hapless saint is plugged into the Afro-Caribbean diaspora, the Catholic Inquisition and the Ku Klux Klan but, instead of providing sparking insights, Pascal's play merely short-circuits our interest.

The props rise shamelessly to the occasion. The only people prepared to be fooled by an Army & Navy greatcoat slung around a stepladder were the actors, who deserve awards for bravery in the face of overwhelming oddities. Abi Eniola and Yonic Blackwood are faintly comic as sparring Caribbean mamas arguing the finer points of European imperialism, and Laure Smadja musters an impressive amount of snarling, bright-eyed fervour. But they have too much nonsense to present.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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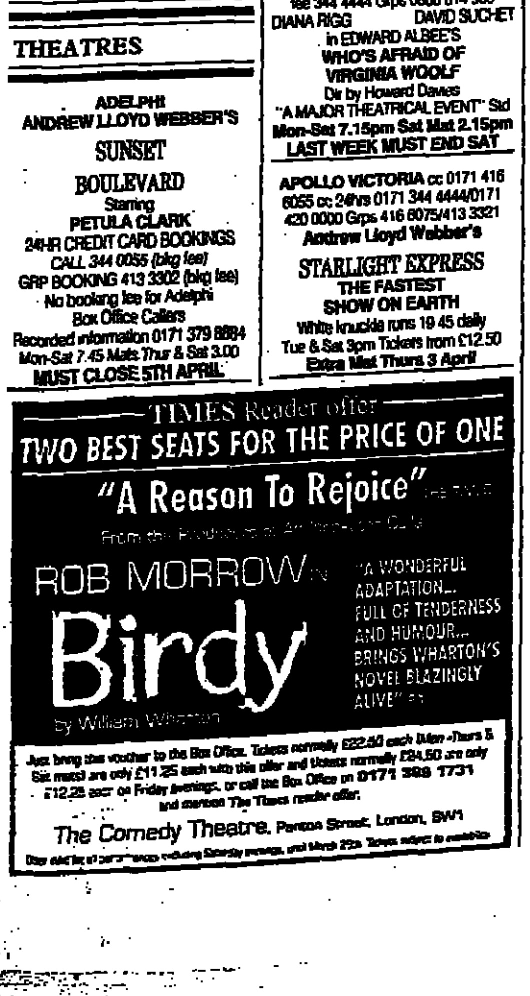

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Locked into a suicidal system

Magnus Linklater calls for a thorough overhaul of prisons

Angela Bollam was 19 when she tied a sheet to the bars of her cell window and hanged herself. She had been alone for five hours in her narrow prison room with just a bunk-bed on one side and a desk on the other. She was wearing tear-proof canvas pyjamas, provided as an anti-suicide measure. A heroin addict, she had spent all morning without the medication she needed. The last human contact she had had was a 30-second conversation with a prison officer through the spyhole in her door. She was discovered dead only after staff noticed that she had not turned up for lunch. Her crime was not a great one — she was on remand for shoplifting at her local Kwik-Save supermarket.

The bleak circumstances of Angela's last hours have been emerging from a fatal accident inquiry into the recent suicide of three young women at Cornton Vale Prison near Stirling. There have now been six such deaths in the course of the past 15 months. To anyone who has followed the detail of this and previous inquiries, the pattern of events has become depressingly predictable. They all involve young, vulnerable girls, emotionally unstable, distressed, often dependent on drugs, and usually on remand for minor offences.

Prison, in those circumstances, can be a frightening experience, and to be locked up alone may be the final straw. In almost every case, there were indications in advance of a suicide risk, and though prisons have a strict procedure in such circumstances, with regular checks by prison staff, it has proved desperately inadequate. The male officer responsible for Angela's supervision had worked for only 11 days in a woman's prison, and had received minimal training in suicide-prevention. Most warders would admit that in a full prison, they simply cannot guarantee the proper monitoring necessary to prevent these deaths. Any psychologist knows that potential suicides should not be locked up on their own.

The inference is clear: prison is the wrong place for women like Angela. They need medical rather than penal supervision — treatment rather than isolation. If lives are to be saved, a completely different regime is required. But that will not happen. The reality is that vulnerable remand prisoners will continue to be sent to Cornton Vale and similar prisons, where they will be dealt with by overstretched officers in a threatening environment. Two weeks ago, a sheriff in Falkirk, remanding a young woman accused of assault, was told by her counsel that she was considered a suicide risk and should not be sent to Cornton Vale. The sheriff said he had looked at the circumstances of her case and decided that there was no alternative. She is currently being held there, "under supervision".

A fair and humane prison system, Winston Churchill said, is the hallmark of a civilised society. If that is the case, then a Government presiding over a prison regime that allows young women to kill themselves in despair has, somewhere along the line, lost touch with civilised values. If this were just a temporary phenomenon, an unhappy statistical lapse, one could perhaps excuse and explain it, while offering sensible remedies. But everything conspires to suggest that this is the by-product of a punitive prison policy that sees custody as an end in itself rather than a means of rehabilitation.

The steady increase in the British prison population, symbolised by the arrival of a prison hulk from America, now moored off the Dorset coast, indicates that closer attention to the plight of distressed remand prisoners ranks fairly low among penal priorities. Prison governors protest about overflowing jails, but are treated with "contempt" (their word) by the Home Office. Simply coping with numbers has taken precedence over anything as subtle as the humane treatment of offenders.

The figures are compelling. In England and Wales, the total prison population has risen almost to 60,000, the highest proportion in Europe. Of this shameful total, those on remand have increased from 12 to 21 per cent in the past 20 years. In crude figures, that means there are currently 12,000 people held in prison who have not been convicted of a crime. The rise in Scotland is less, but still significant. Of those, a majority do not in the end receive custodial sentences, and so need not have been in prison at all; a quarter of them are acquitted altogether before proceedings come to an end.

> Prison is the wrong place for many of these vulnerable people

Weeks and months spent alongside seasoned criminals, perhaps in the psychologically intimidating surroundings of a Cornton Vale, or locked up in an overcrowded cell, have taken their toll. Of the 64 suicides in England and Wales last year, more than half were remand prisoners. That time spent in prison, away from homes, jobs, friends and relations, means that re-entering society for those who are expected to become law-abiding citizens again is doubly difficult.

We need reform — led by a latterday John Howard or Elizabeth Fry, perhaps. Better still, by a humane Home Secretary who has the courage to pursue civilised values undeterred by the baying of the law-and-order mob. But reform, in the current political climate, with both major parties competing for the popular vote, is not on offer. Instead, sentencing policy, backed by the unforgiving tone of retribution, forces the hand of the judiciary in the opposite direction. The judge who voices concern about prison conditions from the bench is accused of being "soft on crime". There are no bonus points for compassion.

Only the Liberal Democrats are honest enough to tell us what they will do about the two great issues

Blair's majority without a mandate

William Rees-Mogg

Juvenal, the great satirist, warned of the "thousand cruel dangers" of life in Rome at the end of the 1st century, rising to the climactic horror of "poets reciting their verses in the month of August". In 1738, Samuel Johnson published his poem *London* in imitation of Juvenal's satire, and transformed the lines to:

> Here falling houses thunder on
> your head.
> And here a female atheist talks you
> dead.

A modern imitator might describe a new horror, not confined to Rome or London and unknown to Juvenal or Johnson, which is worse than Latin versifiers or even female atheists; with the election announcement, we now have to suffer politicians repeating their soundbites on television in April.

It is not only the politicians' contempt for their audience that is odious. We are all quite accustomed to advertisers using repetitive and specious arguments. What is more worrying is the politicians' contempt for themselves. The current soundbites are all so idiotic. Apparently the real issues must not be discussed before the electorate.

Political campaigning has always been disingenuous; when Gladstone was campaigning in Midlothian he did not put the argument between the Turks and the Bulgars in its most judicious form. But the soundbites combine the disingenuous with the simplistic. For the next six weeks we shall hear virtually nothing else, and they are already as repulsive as they are intellectually feeble.

The grand refusal is the conscious decision, taken by both major parties, to avoid putting the single currency question before the electorate. Both agree that there would have to be a referendum before Britain joined the single currency; neither will say whether it would choose to join or not. Most Tories are opposed to the single currency, but they cannot say so because Kenneth Clarke will not let them, and the Prime Minister has not had the confidence, or perhaps the wish, to overrule his Chancellor. I honestly do not know whether John Major is a closet Eurofanatic pretending to be Eurosceptic, or vice versa. The Government is campaigning on a policy that perhaps no member of the Cabinet truly supports. It is at best Asquith's policy of "wait and see". At the last election, the two parties carefully avoided allowing the Maastricht treaty to become an election issue. They are repeating the performance at this election on the issue of the single currency. This coalition of silence is anti-democratic.

Obviously the proposed television debate between John Major and Tony Blair would do nothing to make the party leaders express their real intentions on Europe, if they had any. How would the dialogue go? Tony: "I challenge you, Prime Minister, to say whether you will take the pound into a single currency. The voters have the right to know." John: "Really, I'd much rather not say. No responsible Prime Minister would tell the electorate what he intended to do before he did it. But it is an absolute scandal that a Leader of the Opposition will not tell the voters his policy on the most important constitutional issue to face Britain for many generations. Will Labour take Britain into a single currency?" Tony: "That's an altogether inappropriate question, typical of a Prime Minister who has raised taxes 22 times. All I can say is that enough is enough."

That, or something very like it, is all they would be able to say. The Liberal Democrats are, in any case, quite right about the constitutional impropriety of the proposed Major-Blair television debate. Such a debate would imply that these two are presidential candidates. MPs would be only so many electoral voters, wholly dependent on the national debate; the minor parties, the Liberal Democrats themselves, the various Ulster parties, the Scottish and Welsh nationalists, the Eurosceptic parties and the Greens would not be given their proportionate share in the national debate. I suppose a television debate in which both Ian Paisley and Sir James Goldsmith were involved as party leaders would be very entertaining, but the main party leaders would never agree to that. They would prefer to have a political monopoly which the British constitution does not allow them.

It may seem idealistic to suppose that a general election campaign should be better than this, but it can be, or at least it has been in the past. Margaret Thatcher fought a much more open campaign in 1979, though many of the reforms of the Thatcher decade developed as time went on, in response to political events. The Churchill "set the people free" campaign in 1951 was not perfect but it was more open. The Labour campaign of 1945, which promised both to create the post-war welfare state and to nationalise major industries, was the most open and detailed of all, though the nationalisation policy proved a disaster. In 1945, in 1951 and in 1979, the country was promised major changes; when the changes came they were widely accepted as an expression of the public will, even by those who were opposed to them.

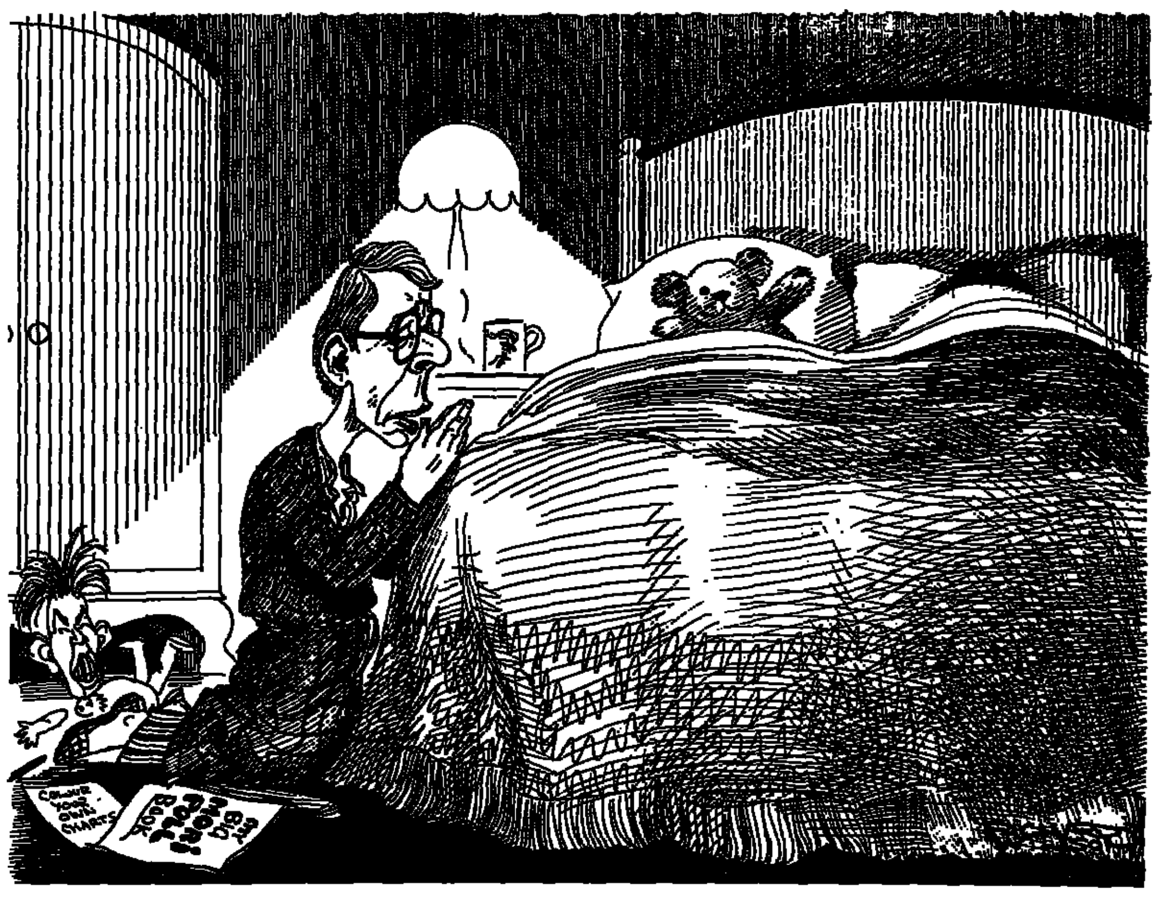
The big issues now are as evident as they were in 1945, 1951 or 1979. The British have to make two great decisions: whether to keep their post-war welfare state at the unavoidable cost of higher taxation, or to accept plural funding in health, education and pensions; and whether to accept a highly integrated Europe, including a single currency. We know the Liberal Democrat answers. They would raise taxes to finance the welfare state; they are federalists, both for Britain and for Europe. We do not know what either of the two major parties would do about financing the welfare state or about Europe, except for Peter Lilley's admirable proposals for funding pensions.

If one wants what the Liberal Democrats offer, more welfare, higher taxes and a European superstate, then one should vote Liberal Democrat with a clear conscience. If one does not want these things then one should not vote for them, but one can still respect their greater openness. In the two larger parties, the voter runs into a wall of silence. Aside from pensions, the Conservatives claim that they will keep the present welfare state in its present form but will not raise taxes. That is impossible. The Labour Party is confused about pensions, but otherwise says "ditto to the Tories". That is equally impossible. Labour will agree to a bit more European integration, but not too much. The Tories say that they will not agree to much more European integration, perhaps only to a bit less than Labour. Neither party will define an attitude towards a single currency: neither party has a policy on welfare, taxation or Europe which tells the voters what it intends to do.

Tony Blair is almost certain to win this election, probably with a large majority. On these central issues he will come to office without having asked for a public mandate. He will not therefore have the mandate for change that Attlee had in 1945, Churchill in 1951 or Thatcher in 1979 — the three decisive victories of the post-war period. He will have a mandate for Scottish and Welsh devolution and for removing the hereditary peers, but not the big social and European issues. "Enough is enough" is an emotional slogan, not a policy. Yet a majority without a mandate like an avalanche of melting snow: it can do some damage but it is "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing".

A debate won't be enough

On the first campaign day, Peter Riddell says voters have already decided



John Major needs a miracle to stay in Downing Street, but he is unlikely to find it in a television debate with Tony Blair. As the campaign is formally launched today, the electoral arithmetic is straightforward and brutal. Whichever way you adjust the polling figures, the Tories are much further behind than any other governing party which has gone on to win re-election. Moreover, the ratings have been settled for some time, with the Labour lead widening, if anything, in recent weeks. The Tories now require a swing of votes in their favour greater than any party has obtained during the final weeks of a campaign.

The Tories therefore have no option but to try to jolt voters out of their desire for a change of government. They need to dramatise the choice to make people feel less sure about voting Labour — especially since the multi-million-pound "New Labour, New Danger" advertising campaign has so far had no apparent impact on voting intentions. Despite the doubts of many of his advisers, Mr Major is right to take the gamble of a television debate. However, big uncertainties remain because of the need to fit in Paddy Ashdown (who should appear if there are to be several debates) as well as about the format (a studio audience might increase the gladiatorial aspect). If there are to be at least two debates, as Brian Mawhinney yesterday suggested, when will they be held? Neither party will want to risk a high-profile debate too close to polling day, in case something goes disastrously wrong. In America, the final debate last year was more than three weeks before election day.

A televised debate, or debates, would capitalise on Mr Major's appeal as the decent, sensible man with the knowledge and experience to handle the intractable problems of government — by contrast, the Tories hope, with the inexperience of Mr Blair. Mr Major is good at conveying his command of a detailed brief, the manager with the safe pair of hands. But Mr Blair is also fluent, confident and self-deprecating in this situation, as he has shown at meetings with Labour members around the country.

Such a programme would certainly become *the* event of the campaign, if only because of its novelty. There would be endless coverage and analysis. But overseas experience suggests that the overall impact on the result might be small. In America, presidential debates started in 1960 and have been held every four years since 1976. The occasional gaffes and even rarer memorable phrases have entered campaign folklore, but there is little evidence that they altered the outcomes. Usually, one candidate is thought to have "won" the debate, but he receives merely a short-lived boost, often cancelled out later. The Hansard Society is this week producing a timely discussion paper by Stephen Coleman on televised leaders' debates, looking at the experience in America, Australia and Canada. This suggests that even if debates do not produce big swings in votes, they do increase public knowledge of party policies and candidates, particularly among those least interested in politics, and this may increase turnout.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Such debates can often, however, be boring and unilluminating, as were last autumn's Clinton-Dole encounters. This is partly because the formats have become rigid and prevented extensive exchanges and follow-up of points. The liveliest debate that I heard last year in America was the final, freewheeling one of eight held over nearly six months between John Kerry and Bill Weld in the Senate race in Massachusetts. There the moderator was essentially an umpire, rather than an interviewer, and the contrast between the candidates came out clearly.

The main reason why debates frequently disappoint is paradoxically because they are regarded as so important. Candidates play safe, often sounding like programmed spokesmen. They thrust and parry, but seldom land a real punch. In Britain, Mr Major and Mr Blair are both too practised to make serious blunders, and because of their regular exchanges in the Commons they are much more experienced than American presidential candidates. As important as the event may be the battle of spin outside the studio, starting while the debate is still going on, as the parties' press officers try to persuade reporters that their man has won. This already happens here every Tuesday and Thursday after Prime Minister's Questions.

So I would be surprised, despite all the hype, if such debates were to be decisive. Few campaign events are. Many voters may nowadays be less firmly attached to one party or another than 25 years ago or more, but even so the vast majority have made up their minds before the formal campaign starts. Worryingly for the Tories, there is little evidence that governments can do much to alter an outcome, although Oppositions can ruin their chances. Paul Keating entered the Australian elections in 1993 as the underdog and his re-election was sealed by the opposition's support for a general sales tax. In Britain, the Labour campaign fell apart in 1983, but otherwise, shifts during a campaign have generally been small — four to five percentage points at the most.

However, a campaign can be decisive at the margin, tipping the balance to give one party a slight edge in a close race, as happened to Labour in February 1974. Five years ago, Mr Major's robust and resilient performance on his soapbox and Neil Kinnock's mishaps in the final ten days may have been enough to ensure that the Tories kept their overall majority — even if, as the *British Election Study* suggests, Labour could not have done anything in the campaign to generate enough votes to become the largest single party in a hung Parliament, let alone to win an overall majority. But we are not talking about movements at the margin now. The Tories need a political earthquake, and I do not yet hear any subterranean rumblings.

Bath plug

THERE WAS an unwelcome guest at the Lucknam Park country hotel, near Bath, where John Major's closest advisers gathered to talk election tactics on Friday night. The hotel, a Palladian mansion in 500 acres, where suites cost up to £530 a night, was deemed the perfect base camp for the party's Central Council meeting in Bath itself.

Come dinner-time, the Prime Minister and the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, were upstairs discussing how to mop the floor with Tony Blair in a television debate.

Meanwhile, Norma Major entertained her husband's coterie to dinner in the restaurant below. Between mouthfuls of sea bass and rocket salad, Norman Blackwell, the head of the No 10 policy unit, chatted intensely with Major's political secretary, Howell James, his parliamentary private secretaries, Lord McColl and John Ward, and speechwriter George Bridges.

Not quite the moment, then, for Philip Gould, Labour's election strategist and arch spin-meister to arrive for dinner. Tory spines stiffened visibly: "He strode in and bravely pretended not to notice," relates an observer. "The waiters saw the problem and just steered him to a table in the opposite corner of the room." From which vantage-point Gould watched the comings and goings of Major's men as they were called up in turn to put the finishing touches to the PM's "you can only be sure with the Conservatives" speech.

"What do you mean we've missed the Ides of March?"

THE TIMES DIARY

● *A kleptomaniac is at large in South Africa's Parliament Buildings in Cape Town. Since Nelson Mandela took office in 1994, 260 incidents of theft have been reported. As well as a staple diet of fax machines and computers, the thief has also taken the curtains hung specially for the Queen's state visit, an MP's gun, a set of breathing apparatus and all the door handles from the ladies' loos.*

It's a steal

HIS INTERPRETATION of the Eighth Commandment may be eccentric, but the Rev John Papworth, the clergyman who said shoplifting from superstores was not sinful, is a man of principle to the end.

Subscribers to his magazine, *Fourth World Review* are means-tested according to categories: (a) television personalities, dishwasher-owners and users of taxis: £25 per annum (b) drivers of second-hand cars and wearers of false teeth: £10 p.a. (c) archbishops: £220.

Papworth: eccentric

Blue corners

CHAOS broke out at the 90th Varsity Boxing Match, which was narrowly won by Oxford at the Cambridge Guildhall on Friday. With Oxford leading 4-3, the light-heavyweights took the ring for a potentially match-settling bout.

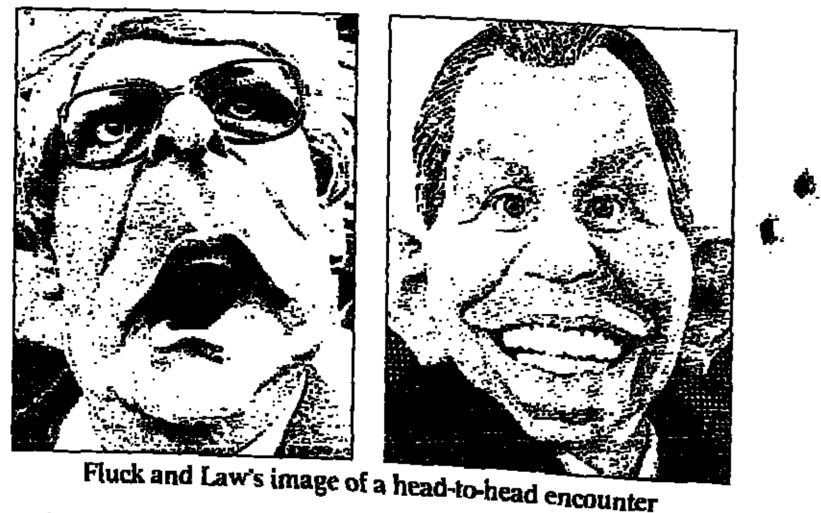
After a three tough rounds, in which the Cambridge man was penalised for hitting below the belt, the referee, Mr C. Goodenough, declared Oxford's fighter the winner. But immediately the Cambridge corner stormed the ring, accusing Mr Goodenough of bias and wielding buckets in a threatening manner.

A sour-sounding Cambridge supporter takes up commentary: "It was a ridiculous decision and the crowd and coaches couldn't take it lying down. They all just snapped." Mr Goodenough had to be extricated from the ring and replaced by one of the judging panel before tempers subsided.

Streit on

TWO TENORS were on show for the price of one at the Royal Opera House's *Così fan tutte* last week. The young tenor Rainer Trost had fallen ill, while the second tenor, the Swedish Gosta Windbergh, having just performed in the matinée, needed honey rather than more strain on his larynx.

So enter the American Kurt Streit, who had earlier in the day flown into London from America for a concert series. Having sung in the production before, he was able to sing half the opera while Windbergh managed the other half. In a play in which disguise has so large a part, the transition was virtually seamless.



Fluck and Law's image of a head-to-head encounter

Silk purse

BUREAUCRACY has finally triumphed over art at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, where some of Britain's sharpest political satirists are staging an exhibition. To give a contemporary edge to the *Spitting Image* display (a skip filled with latex effigies of Thatcher, Major, Clarke *et al*), the puppets' creator Roger Law — Damien Hirst style — secreted three real pigs' heads among the polls.

"It worked a treat," says the bearded Law, "until some stuffed official told me to get rid of them on health and safety grounds." Law had the final word, however. His model of Tony Blair as a grinning angel began to emit a strange smell in the course of the private view: "They're duck wings," he said "and when they get hot they smell like old socks."

P·H·S

هكذا من الاصل

1997

[illegible]

ALBANIAN ANARCHY

The EU should deploy an elite brigade of accountants

Apparently haunted by their collective failure in Bosnia, Eueopean Union foreign ministers meeting informally in The Netherlands yesterday issued their response. The communiqué emphasised their strong commitment to assisting Albania in its efforts to restore civilian structures and the rule of law. With that, the 15 politicians decided to dispatch military and political advisers, but not troops, to Tirana.

In truth, there was little more they either could or *should* do. Those fine words will have little impact in Albania, not least because there is no organised authority available to be so affected. Europe's poorest nation has slipped into a condition of simple anarchy, more akin to the "failed states" of Africa — Liberia and Somalia — than to any this continent has recently experienced. To detect subtle political manoeuvres behind the current conditions of total lawlessness is to be too rational. Albania is a country in a state of implosion. This might well be exploited by partisan forces, including the former Stalinists, but it has not been created by them nor is it under their control.

For that reason, a comparison with the former Yugoslavia is inaccurate and unhelpful. In that case organised factions emerged along ethnic lines and in a highly orchestrated fashion deliberately committed the worst atrocities seen in Europe since 1945. That this happened, with little restraint, and could ultimately be dealt with only by American intervention, even then of an inconsistent sort, was a shameful indictment of Western Europe. Albania is different. The whole country is embarked upon an apparently unstoppable uprising; a revolt without leaders, philosophy, or strategy in the conventional sense. Its sole coherent objective is the removal of Sali Berisha from the presidential palace. Beyond that, even the participants are clueless.

President Berisha's new offer to resign if his party is defeated in fresh elections would, in ordinary circumstances, be seen as magnanimous and a reasonable formula for the restoration of order. Unfortunately, events have travelled beyond the point at which reason can be applied. The EU are unlikely to meet Mr Berisha: the anarchy and obvious indifference of the armed forces do not bode well for his survival. Those who wish to limit the damage that Albania inflicts upon itself, which is a proper objective for Europe's statesmen, had better turn to how best to restore confidence once events have run their course.

In that context the original cause of this crisis, fraudulent pyramid schemes and their aftermath, must be revisited. To outsiders it might seem odd that the Albanian Government should suffer for commercial malpractice. Matters are rather more complex. The Democratic Party headed by Mr Berisha was lavishly funded by the directors of these dubious enterprises. It also benefited from the artificial "feel-good" factor they encouraged. By these means it won a rigged parliamentary contest last year. This may well have influenced its decision not to apply appropriate regulations to the pyramid companies. Street violence may be destructive, but it is based on more than unfocussed anger.

The EU should indeed act in Albania but through an elite brigade of accountants and economists. The essential issue now is how to get that country through to parliamentary elections in one piece and then perform the necessary fiscal surgery that will enable whoever is elected to ensure stability. This may necessitate considerable humanitarian aid in the very short term and financial contributions in the short-medium term. It is the only route by which anarchy will be abated and the rule of law restored.

CAR WARS

The campaign now standing at platform number one...

Whether voters feel exhilarated or dispirited at the prospect of a long election campaign after a lengthy build-up, an old truth bears repeating. However glib the soundbites, however skilfully evasive the ministers and their shadows, voters now have their rare opportunity to let politicians know what they think are the important issues and what they *think should be done about them*. Newspapers, radio and television have the duty not only to report the politicians but to listen to the electorate's drumbeat as well.

Every Monday for the past eight weeks we have been setting out the issues facing the country. Today's subject is transport policy: it will never decide a general election but it is an important subject on the public mind. And the public is fed up with neglect of the country's transport system.The Conservatives have discovered, too late, that good transport is vital not only to business efficiency and global competitiveness but to the quality of daily life. Since 1979 there have been 11 Transport Secretaries, each staying on average no more than 18 months. The department has been used as a transit station for Cabinet ministers on their way out or a proving ground for those groomed for higher things. None has stayed long enough to make any impression on a demoralised department.

Things have begun to change. The Government has realised that postwar reliance on the private car was leading towards national gridlock and environmental misery. Roadbuilding was unable to keep pace with rising traffic volume. The old policy of "predict and provide" was not only inordinately expensive; it was eating up countryside and destroying cities at a rate that alarmed not only environmentalists. Car numbers had to be curbed; and that meant revitalising public transport. But years of underinvestment, especially in the London Underground, has left systems in need of such huge sums of money that there is little the Government can do in the short term to halt, let alone reverse, the decline in services and provision.

In the long term, privatisation was seen as the answer. The Government paid a heavy electoral cost for the implementation of this policy. Rail privatisation has been complex, protracted and muddled by financial uncertainty. The overall shift is right: there is no other alternative to privatisation which will generate the money and innovation so obviously needed. But the benefits, although now more likely than sceptics anticipated, have not flowed fast enough to assuage public opinion.

South West Trains, the first franchise to be granted, may be the first casualty. By making 70 drivers redundant in January, Stagecoach, the operator, has been forced to cancel hundreds of trains servicing the Conservative-voting counties southwest of London. Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, who launched Britain's first private mainline service from Waterloo a year ago with glowing praise, has now described the company as inept. The rail franchise director is threatening a £1 million fine. The row has wiped more than £250 million off rail operators' shares. And critics have invaluable electoral ammunition.

The only comfort for the Govenment is that Labour has been equally insouciant and ill-prepared to offer realistic alternatives. That will not comfort vexed commuters or relieve motorists' frustration. It is a warning, however. Transport is just one area where the next government must prove itself a lot more adroit.

POSTERITY PUZZLE

How to commemorate an event which never occurred

Posterity gives every man his true value, Tacitus claimed. Posterity is as likely to be wrong as anyone else, the American journalist Heywood Broun countered 18 centuries later. Both poles of argument look a little crude in the light of the odd history of Enoch Soames. Is it possible to confuse even the rigorous judgment of posterity?

The British Library is being asked how it plans to mark one of the most resonant dates ever to appear in a short story: June 3, 1997. Max Beerbohm's story *Enoch Soames*, set exactly a century ago, recalls the final day in the life of Enoch Soames, an unprepossessing poet with a small beard and no talent for poetry. But Soames is obsessed by his own place in literary history.

On June 3, 1897, Soames is approached by a plausible gentleman who introduces himself as the Devil. Soames can have five hours in the British Museum Reading Room of June 1997 to discover what posterity thinks of him, says the Devil, if he descends to Hell immediately afterwards. Soames travels through time to the domed Reading Room — he is spared the new British Library in St Pancras — and is appalled to find that he has left no mark on history.

First published in 1919, *Enoch Soames* strikes a nerve with a light-hearted but acute treatment of artists' yearning to know how they might be remembered after death. The imminence of the date of Soames's flying visit to this century has produced a peculiar paradox. The man who never existed and who wrote nothing worth remembering has now become a minor literary cult. Enoch Soames fans want to meet in the Reading Room on June 3. Spoof lectures on post-feminist analysis of Soames's collection, *Fungoid*, may be delivered.

The judgment of posterity is not a gradual elimination of doubt about the timeless quality of a book, painting or poem; recognition is a fickle bubble. John Donne was neglected for more than a century before his poetry was revived. Jane Austen's original gravestone, in Winchester Cathedral, carries no reference to the fact that she was a writer. Who now reads Robert Bridges, Poet Laureate when Max Beerbohm first published *Enoch Soames*? Few artists can master the trick of influencing their ratings after death. T.S.Eliot ceased to write poetry after the *Four Quartets* and switched to plays, perhaps fearful that further poems could only detract from his fame. Even in his letters he betrays an awareness that his correspondence might be read by generations not yet born when he first wrote them.

Technology may alter the slow sifting of reputation. Digital data can be stored in almost limitless quantities: publishers no longer control what is available by selecting works for printing. A database has already been begun which plans to include all British poetry, however bad. Why should it not expand to include the neglected work of Enoch Soames?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Achievements of 'unlucky' Berisha

From Lord Bethell

Sir, When I was first in Albania in 1988 the country was in the grip of Stalinist tyrants, supposedly elected by a 100 per cent vote of the Albanian people. No private citizen could own a car or travel abroad or practise the Christian or Muslim religion.

The prisons were full of political prisoners, some of whom had been kept in terrible conditions for more than 40 years. Every few days some poor Albanian was shot trying to swim from Sarande to Corfu on a rubber ring.

I was taken to the Secret Police Museum and shown pictures of the "fascist imperialists" David Smiley and Julian Amery (report and photographs, March 7), brave men who deserved medals for helping to liberate Albania from Italian and German occupation. In those days Albanian attitudes to Britain were hostile and we had no diplomatic relations.

Mahomet Kaplani, the deputy Foreign Minister, told me that religion was a plague bacillus and that Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, was a traitor and a heretic.

"It is not true that we arrest people for going to church," he said. "How can we? There are no churches."

Three years later I found that Dr Sali Berisha was bravely building up an Albanian opposition, in the wake of a fair amount of Stalinist bloodshed. He piloted Albania to a measure of democracy, with a vigorous press and the freest elections in its history, which he won in 1992. One of his first actions was to erect a memorial to the British agents who died in Albania during the war.

Sir Reginald Hibbert (letter, March 13) is therefore wrong, in my view, to compare Sali Berisha to the Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha. The latter kept his people in poverty, closed from the world and subject to the whims of a Communist Party that no citizen was allowed to challenge.

On the other hand Mr Berisha, in spite of his faults, did his best to build a free economy and a multiparty system. He did not, as the Communists did in 1990, order his men to fire on unarmed demonstrators. He was unlucky, but the path he chose for his country had merit. Soon, I hope, more fortunate Albanian democrats will follow his example.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS BETHELL,
Manor Farm,
Brill, Buckinghamshire.
March 14.

Gorbachev's legacy

From Professor Archie Brown, FBA

Sir, Mr Oleg Gordievsky's letter (March 12) about Mikhail Gorbachev is wildly misleading. When blood was shed these were one-night excesses which Gorbachev never allowed to become the sustained slaughter that Boris Yeltsin permitted over 18 months in Chechnya.

In one case cited by Mr Gordievsky, Tbilisi 1989, a parliamentary committee of inquiry, headed by two deputies closer to Yeltsin than to Gorbachev — Anatoli Sobchak and Sergei Stankevich — cleared Gorbachev of any responsibility. Indeed, as I have shown in my book, *The Gorbachev Factor*, the killings occurred because his explicit instructions were disregarded.

On the broader issue of free elections, after centuries of authoritarian government and 70 years of Communist rule Russia could not move to "free elections ... and a multiparty system" in one fell swoop. Even today, with the exception of the Communists' organisation, party formation in Russia remains weak.

What Gorbachev decided upon in the summer of 1988 and implemented the following spring was the move to contested elections (albeit imperfectly democratic) for a legislature in which real debate took place and from where the highly critical remarks of deputies were broadcast to tens of millions of Soviet television viewers. After that things could never be the same again.

A fairer observer than Mr Gordievsky — though from the Yeltsin rather than Gorbachev camp — Mr Yegor Gaidar has said that it is impossible to overestimate what Gorbachev did for Russian freedom. On that he was right.

Yorus faithfully,
ARCHIE BROWN (Sub-Warden),
St Antony's College, Oxford.
March 13.

Jamaican economy

From Mr Ronald Irving

Sir, The extent of the failure of the economic policies of Michael Manley (Obituary, March 8) was summed up for me by the cashier in a supermarket in Jamaica a couple of years ago: "He promised us equality and gave us poverty. They have stolen our money."

This was in reply to my remark about the astonishing inflation since my last holiday in Jamaica.

Yours faithfully,
R. IRVING,
57 York Street, W1.
March 8.

Sport letters, page 37

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Informed choice of primary school

From Mr John McNicholas

Sir, In his article on the publication of primary school league tables ("Who will be top of the class?", March 10), John O'Leary states that "parents will *finally* [my italics] have some objective information on primary schools". He repeats the fallacy two paragraphs later — that parents "have had to make their choice of school *solely* [my italics] on impressions and local reputation".

Since 1993 primary schools have been obliged to include in their written information for parents contained in the school brochure/prospectus, the percentages of their pupils attaining the different levels in the national curriculum tests in English, maths and science.

It is this regulation which makes the publication of league tables superfluous. Parents already know, before they come to make a choice of primary school, the few (indeed it may only be one) that are logistically accessible for their children. A visit by them to a school will produce not only a reliable first-hand impression but the hard facts about children's achievement in the school. And if the school is too far away to visit it is hardly likely to be near enough for their children to attend.

I am glad that, on the adjacent page (article, "Now, make your choice"), John O'Leary almost recants, admitting that up-to-date test results are *also contained in schools' annual reports.*

Yours sincerely,
JOHN McNICHOLAS
(President, National Association
of Head Teachers, 1994-95),
Orchard House
Rolston Road,
Hornsea, East Yorkshire.
March 10.

From the Head Teacher
of Dorchester St Birinus
Church of England School

Sir, Many proud pupils, parents, governors and teachers will be disappointed to find that their schools were omitted from the primary school league tables.

In many cases this was because the Department for Education and Employment policy is to publish results only where 11 or more pupils have taken the tests. Ten pupils from this school took the tests last summer, of whom 80 per cent achieved Level 4 or above in English, 60 per cent in maths and 90 per cent in science, putting the school in the top 25 per cent of Oxfordshire schools.

Yours faithfully,
JENNY POND,
Head Teacher,
Dorchester St Birinus
Church of England School,
Queen Street,
Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxford.
March 12.

From Dr John Herbert

Sir, It seems these days that as much is being spent in education on assessment as on teachers' salaries. It has cost £1 million to produce the primary school league tables.

My wife is a governor of a small infants' school with fewer than 50 children. She has left for a governors' meeting with her agenda papers. I am about to leave for an important committee meeting at a university. My agenda papers equal hers in content, length and weight.

When are we going to regain our senses?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HERBERT,
Pendyffryn,
17 Gelli Avenue, Risca, Gwent.
March 11.

From Mr Sebastian Watt

Sir, On the day primary school league tables are published, showing my children's school as the best placed in Cambridge, I receive from the chairman of governors a letter explaining that, owing to less funding per pupil this year, they will have no choice but to make redundancies in the teaching staff.

I wonder just what message the Government would like me to take from this.

Yours faithfully,
SEBASTIAN WATT,
52 Highsett,
Hills Road, Cambridge.
March 11.

Field sports

From Mr D. P. Marchessini

Sir, Like most vociferous opponents of field sports, Mr Douglas Porter (letter, March 11) is singularly uninformed about the subject. He suggests that in hare coursing, two hounds run down a "captive hare" which has no realistic chance to escape. The truth is that there are exits on both sides of the coursing field and the hare usually escapes. The dogs are given points on how often they make the hare turn and how difficult they make it for him to escape. It is rare that they actually catch him.

On the subject of shooting, the only reason that pheasants and partridges exist in this country is because they are reared for shooting, and that if this disappeared so would the birds. As for there being hardly any sport in shooting, there are countless shoots in England where the birds come at what seems to be a stratospheric height, and where few are brought down.

Finally, as regards hunting, anyone who is at all knowledgeable about country pursuits knows that foxes are one of the few animals that kill for pleasure. They are vermin that are a danger to farm animals and if not hunted by hounds will have to be shot by the farmers. This will mean considerable loss of pleasure to many thousands of country people who have been hunting for many hundreds of years. It will also mean considerably less pleasure to the foxes, as they are hard to kill and most will be wounded and die painfully over several days.

To describe field sports enthusiasts as "braying asses" and "oafs" is not an impressive intellectual argument.

Yours faithfully,
D. P. MARCHESSINI,
Kingsbury House,
15/17 King Street, St James's, SW1.
March 11.

From Mr Lionel Alexander

Sir, At the end of a long and blameless life trying — albeit without great distinction — to serve my country, my community and my family and friends, I find it hard to accept, especially from strangers, that, because I enjoy game shooting, I am a "braying ass".

Strongly held and forcefully expressed opinions in debate are to be expected. Bad manners are not.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL ALEXANDER,
Clunemore,
Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire.
March 12.

A test of honesty

From Mr Roger Corke

Sir, I am sorry that the Rev Francis Bown (letter, March 11) thought that the *World in Action* programme descended into "the gutter" when we sent him money from a bogus company. The exercise was part of our investigation into the honesty of the British people. With so many commentators questioning the integrity of those in public life, it seemed to us that honesty was just as legitimate a subject as many others.

We have now written to all those who did not keep the money and explained why they received the letter. For obvious reasons, we could not contact people before the programme was transmitted.

I would be more inclined to accept Father Bown's criticisms if we had identified any of those who kept the money. Despite considerable interest from the rest of the media, the programme did not name them.

He returned his cheque but many others in our honesty test did not. Vicars and priests were only just in front of used-car dealers from east London and well behind Members of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER CORKE
(Producer-director, *World in Action*),
Granada Television,
The London Television Centre,
Upper Ground, SE1.
March 13.

Crichel Down affair

From Mr J. A. Bey

Sir, Dr R. J. Lamden resuscitates the old canard (letter, March 7) that Sir Thomas Dugdale resigned as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1954 on a matter (the Crichel Down affair) "badly mishandled by the Civil Service and of which [he] had no knowledge".

The late I. F. Nicolson showed in his book *The Mystery of Crichel Down* (Clarendon Press, 1986), written after the expiry of the 30-year rule, that Sir Thomas Dugdale in fact personally approved the decision which was the motivating factor in his resignation.

The case cannot therefore be fairly quoted as a precedent for the proper conduct of ministers in the present circumstances.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. BEY,
55 Birling Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Israel's 'candid friends'

From Mr A. J. Cotton

Sir, No doubt Jews living outside Israel do have the right to criticise her (Mr David Weizmann's letter, March 7) but whether they should do so publicly as distinct from privately, and whether such expression is as helpful to the State as "candid friends" would wish, is a matter on which there are opposing views.

My wife and I had our home in Israel for nearly 12 years. Our son and daughter served in the Israeli Defence Forces, and I do not agree with Mr Weizmann. One reason is that Israel's problems are usually complex and too many Jews in the Diaspora often express uninformed opinion too quickly.

Yours etc,
A. J. COTTON,
6 Cedar Court,
Sheen Lane, SW14.
March 7.

Funding plea for London's Tube

From Mr David Bramson and others

Sir, Inadequate transport is a key issue which could put London's economic competitiveness at risk. As businessmen we recognise the bottom line contribution the Underground makes and its role in maintaining London as a world-class city.

Regrettably, however, the failure of successive governments over the past 35 years to match this contribution has led to a £1.2 billion investment backlog, compounded by a 28 per cent cut in government grant over the next three years. As a result, London Transport has been forced to pare £700 million from its investment programme. This flies in the face of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report of 1991, which recommended investment of £700 to £750 million for ten years to eliminate the backlog. Next year investment will be only £340 million.

Monday morning sees the launch of the London Tube Campaign, the aim of which is to raise awareness of the funding shortfall and to persuade the Government to review London Transport's financial settlement as outlined in the last Budget. The campaign brings together business, voluntary, leisure and commuter organisations in a wide-ranging coalition of London interests who wish to see a properly funded and reliable modern metro system.

As financial supporters of the campaign, our message to all political parties is that amid the recent speculation about long-term options for the Underground, we cannot lose sight of its immediate financial needs. The current levels of funding are inadequate for London's competitiveness and that of the UK economy as a whole.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BRAMSON
(Senior Partner, Nabarro Nathanson).
KEITH CLARKE
(Executive Vice-President,
Kvaerner plc).
ALAN JONES
(Chief Executive, BICC plc),
NICK LAND
(Senior Partner, Ernst & Young),
London First,
Caxton House, 6 Tothill Street, SW1.
March 15.

Arts Council subsidies

From Dr Anthony Field

Sir, It is not surprising to read that Lord McAlpine hated his time on the Arts Council (Features, March 7, except Scottish editions). It is ludicrous to make political appointments of people who appear to have so little acquaintance with the council's work or its finances.

Lord McAlpine says that it was never satisfactorily explained to him why council money should be spent on a tour of *Oklahoma!* The reasons for that investment were clearly explained to the council at the time as well as in my finance director's notes in the council's annual reports and accounts.

In 1980-81 the council offered Cameron Mackintosh Productions Ltd a guarantee of £70,000 to tour this Leicester Haymarket production. This was both to enable the Leicester theatre to exploit its Christmas production and to assist a number of large regional theatres to stay open and available for the council's programme of touring opera and dance companies.

In the event this production of Oklahoma! proved so successful that after the tour it moved into the Palace Theatre in London for an extended run and the share of profits from the tour and the West End was reflected in the council's annual published accounts from 1980 to 1983. The Leicester theatre's share of profits was also reflected in its accounts for those years.

Yours truly,
ANTHONY FIELD
(Finance Director,
Arts Council, 1958-85),
152 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, EC2.
March 11.

Goldwyn's wisdom

From Mr P. R. Edwards

Sir, I think Kathy Lette (Diary, March 11) had in mind a "Goldwynism" when saying: "Men think monogamy is something you make furniture from."

Sam Goldwyn is reputed to have said that monogamy was OK in the office, but at home he preferred white pine.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. EDWARDS,
3 Aspin Lane,
Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.

Too close for comfort

From Sir George Cooper

Sir, I have become accustomed to my bank allocating me a Relationship Manager, though my wife is (thankfully) reluctant to enter into a relationship with hers. But today I have received a letter from a magazine subscriptions service signed by a lady calling herself the Head of Fulfilment.

What am I to do?

Yours etc,
G. COOPER,
Mulberry Cottage,
37 Mulberry Green,
Old Harlow, Essex.
March 12.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 15: The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, this morning visited the offices of World Wide Fund for Nature — Tokyo, Japan, and this afternoon left Japan to fly to Russia.

His Royal Highness later arrived at Khabarovsk, Eastern Russia.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Dinner for World Wide Fund for Nature at the Karat Hotel, Khabarovsk.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 15: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, today attended the International Match between France and Scotland at Parc des Princes, Paris, and was received by Her Majesty's Ambassador (His Excellency Sir Michael Jay).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 16: The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, today visited the Great Khekhtsyr State Nature Reserve, Eastern Russia.

Mr Nicholas Stewart Archer of the Foreign Office has been appointed Assistant Private Secretary to His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. Mr Archer will take up his post on March 24, 1997.

Birthdays today

Lord Justice Aldous, 61; Professor J.R. Baines, Egyptologist, 51; Sir Donald Barron, former chairman, Midland Bank, 76; Viscount Bridport, 49; Alderman Sir John Chalstrey, former Lord Mayor of London, 66; Mr Terry Dicks, MP, 60; Professor David Dilks, Vice-Chancellor, Hull University, 59; Vice-Admiral Sir Donald Gibson, 81; Sir Arthur Hockaday, former Director-General, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 71; Professor G.M. Hughes, zoologist, 71; Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, yachtsman, 58; the Earl of Lauderdale, 86; Professor John Lill, pianist, 53; Mrs Penelope Lively, writer, 64; Mr Alexander McQueen, fashion designer, 28; Sir Ramsay Melhuish, diplomat, 65; Lady (James) Mellon, former chairman, Volunteer Development Scotland, 68; the Most Rev K.M.P. O'Brien, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, 59; Mr Tim Rathbone, MP, 64; Sir Patrick Reilly, diplomat, 88; Mr Kurt Russell, actor, 46; Miss Galina Samsova, ballerina, 60; Mr Brian Sedgemore, MP, 60; Sir Patrick Sergeant, founder, Euromoney Publications, 73; Dr David Stafford-Clark, psychiatrist, 81, and his son Mr Max Stafford-Clark, former artistic director, Royal Court Theatre, 56; Mr Michael Whitaker, showjumper, 37.

Nature notes

THE first summer visitors are back. Wheatears are stopping to feed on playing fields as they make their way to the moors: they are lively, grey birds with black wings and eyepatches, that like to perch on little mounds. When they fly off over the grass they show a conspicuous white rump.

Chiffchaffs are back in the treetops singing vigorously while they dart at early flies: they are small olive-brown birds and their song is the double clinking note that gives them their name. Blackbirds and song-thrushes are beginning to build their nests in the hedges: the blackbird's nest is lined with fine grass, while the thrush's nest has a hard mud interior with no lining.

Lesser celandines are now opening everywhere on muddy roadsides: their many pointed yellow stars each grow on an individual stalk. Pale green horse-chestnut leaves are breaking out of the sticky buds, pushing the pink scales aside. On hornbeams, there are soft crimson and yellow catkins, and the first spiky leaf buds are just beginning to open. Bumble-bees are humming over the new flowers. They are all queen bees that were fertilised last year, and they will now make their underground nests and lay their eggs.

The lively wheatear

DJM

Today's royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will present shamrock to the Irish Guards at Pirbright at 11.30 to mark St Patrick's Day.

The Prince of Wales will visit the offices of the North Level Drainage Board, Thorney, Cambridgeshire at 2.25 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the 1947 floods; and will visit Peterborough Cathedral to view the restoration work of the trust at 3.15.

The Princess Royal will open Scottish Power's new business park at Cathcart, Spean Street, Glasgow, at 1.; will open the Scottish Engineering Centre in Glasgow for the Institution of Electrical Engineers at St Enoch Square at 2.40; as Patron of the World Culinary Grand Prix 1997, will open the competition at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow, at 4; and will attend the Hospitality Trust for Scotland's Industry dinner at the Glasgow Thistle Hotel at 7.15.

The Duke of Kent, as Chancellor of Surrey University, will launch the Surrey Scholars' Scheme at St James's Palace at 12.15.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Chalmers, 1st Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland (1843-47), Anstruther, 1780; Edmund Kean, actor, London, 1789; Kate Greenaway, illustrator, London, 1846; Margaret Bondfield, first woman chairman of the Trades Union Congress 1923, first woman Cabinet minister 1929-31, Chard, Somerset, 1873.

DEATHS: Harold, King of the English 1035-40, Oxford, 1040; Philip Massinger, dramatist, London, 1640; François Duc de La Rochefoucauld, writer, Paris, 1680; David Dale, industrialist and philanthropist, Glasgow, 1806; Christian Doppler, physicist, Venice, 1853; Isaac Babel, short story writer, Russia, 1941.

Today is the Feast of St Patrick, Apostle of the Irish.

Dr Marie Stopes opened Britain's first birth control clinic in north London, 1921.

Tonbridge School

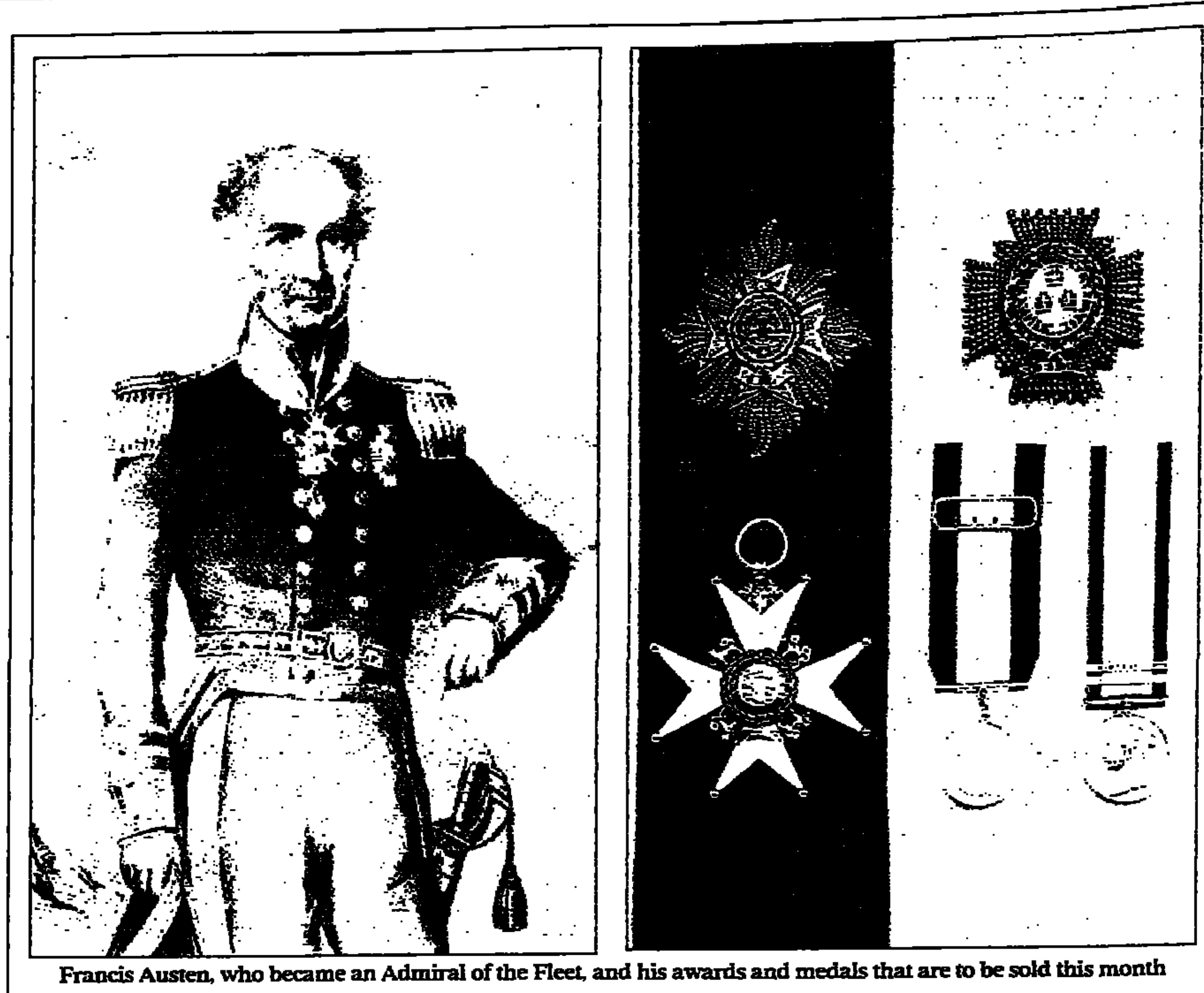
The following Music and Art Scholarships awards have been made for 1997:

Music Scholarships
Jan Ball, The New Beacon, Sevenoaks; William Bryant, Hall Grove, Bagshot; Joachim Chan, St John's College School, Cambridge; Alexander Clissold-Jones, St George's School, Windsor; David Cooper, Dulwich Preparatory School, Cranbrook; Robyn Owen-Bradley, Hilden Grange, Tonbridge; Thomas Stevenson-Rouse, St Edmund's Junior School, Canterbury; Mark Thornton, St Edmund's Junior School, Canterbury; Matthew Mitchell, The Judd School, Tonbridge.

Music Exhibitions
Freddie Chillcott, The New Beacon, Sevenoaks; Oliver Gascoigne, Temple Grove with St Nicholas, Uckfield; Alex Holbourn, Tower House, East Sheen.

Art Scholarships
Joachim Chan, St John's College School, Cambridge; Julien Hunt, Milbourne Lodge, Esher; David Jenkins, Solefield School, Sevenoaks.

Tonbridge School is a charitable foundation for the education of boys.



Francis Austen, who became an Admiral of the Fleet, and his awards and medals that are to be sold this month

Sailor brother inspired Jane Austen

By John Shaw

MEDALS and insignia awarded to Jane Austen's brother, whose career in Nelson's Navy was reflected in her novels, are about to be sold for about £35,000 at auction in London.

Francis Austen, the elder and more forceful of her two sailor brothers, had an action-packed career and rose from midshipman to Admiral of the Fleet. Jane followed his career closely and because of the family's good social connections often knew about his impending promotions through the ranks before he did. They were always close but he outlived her and died in 1865.

He was known as Frank in the family and nicknamed "Fly" because of his seemingly limitless energy. At the age of 14 he sailed as a midshipman on the *Perseverance* to the East Indies. Four years later he was described as "a short, slight young man with a soft voice and gentlemanly manners but formidably firm, independent and efficient; a disciplinarian with a meticulous eye for detail".

The qualities never left him. Once, he noticed a brother officer swimming in the sea pursued by a shark and shouted: "Mr Pakenham, you are in danger of a shark — a shark of the blue species." He was an heroic figure to Jane, who dedicated two early stories to him and also made reference to her brother in her *History of England*.

Francis Austen saw action on a succession of ships. After being appointed captain of the *Petrel*, a 14-gun sloop, he destroyed 40 enemy ships. He once took on three French vessels, driving two onto the rocks and capturing a third.

Nelson wrote of him as "an excellent young man". Francis was in the build-up to Trafalgar but to his regret missed the battle when his ship was among four vessels sent for water and provisions to Gibraltar.

Jane Austen's brother, like many seamen, was good with a needle and thread. The novelist used that ability in the character of Captain Harville in *Persuasion*. Francis confirmed many years later that some of the captain's "domestic habits, tastes and occupations bear a strong resemblance to mine".

He was appointed CB in 1815 and advanced to KCB in 1838. The two insignia, his gold medal won for his part in the battle of St Domingo, and Naval General Service awards 1793-1840 will be sold by Dix Noonan and Webb in London on March 25.

Dinners

Savoy Gastronomes
The annual reunion dinner of the Savoy Gastronomes was held on Saturday at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem.

Cardiff Business Club
The Chairman of Cardiff Business Club, Mr Brian K. Thomas, the Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Captain N. Lloyd Edwards, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Max Phillips and the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr R.P.V. Rees, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, last Friday evening. The guest speaker was Sir Brian Pitman, Chairman, Lloyds TSB Group plc. Mr Philip Nunnerley, Director, Lloyds Bank plc, presided.

Service dinners

Queen's Lancashire Regiment
The annual dinner of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment Volunteer Dinner Club was held on Saturday at Kimberley Barracks, Preston. Lieutenant-Colonel C.A. Hookey, Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, presided.

4th/5th Battalion The Essex Regiment (TA)
Colonel Roger Tomkins, Chairman of the 4th/5th Battalion The Essex Regiment (TA) Officers' Dinner Club, presided at the annual dinner in Colchester on Saturday.

Memorial services

Mr William Tatton Brown
A memorial service for Mr William Tatton Brown, architect, was held on Saturday at St John's, Ladbroke Grove, London. The Rev Harold Stringer officiated.

Lady Bell, daughter, read the lesson and Mr Benjamin Bell, grandson, read a poem. Mr Nicholas Tatton Brown, son, Dr John Falk and Mr Howard Goodman gave addresses.

Dr Merlin Thomas
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Merlin Thomas, Emeritus Fellow, New College, Oxford, was held on Saturday in the college chapel. The Rev Dr Rob Harnish, chaplain, officiated.

Viscount Norwich read poetry. Mr Christopher Hampton, Dr Richard Cooper, a Fellow of Brasenose, and Dr Alan Ryan, Warden of New College, gave addresses.

Antonio Rosmini-Serbati
A Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, on Saturday, March 22, at 2.30pm in Westminster Cathedral, to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Antonio Rosmini, priest, philosopher and patriot, Founder of the Institute of Charity (Rosminian Fathers). All welcome, no tickets required. Further inquiries: 0171-405 1061.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.J.L. Bibby and Dr F.M. Willett
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs J.L. Bibby, of Gressingham, Lancashire, and Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.J. Willett, of Dunley, Worcestershire.

Mr O.A. Colman and Mrs E.C. Blake
The engagement is announced between Olav, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Colman, of Mojacar, Spain, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Trevor, of Northborough, Cambridgeshire.

Mr H.C.G. Raymond and Miss L.A.M. Wells
The engagement is announced between Hugo, eldest son of Mr and Mrs William Raymond, of Clapton-in-Gordano, Somerset, and Lucy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Wells, of Barnes, London.

Mr R.I. Trevillion and Miss K.F. Adcock
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs D. Trevillion, of Worcester, and Kylie, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Adcock, of Brisbane, Australia.

Marriages

Mr J.R.E. Rankin and Miss J.E.L. Clark
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Temple Church of Mr James Rowland Evelyn Rankin, younger son of the late Mr Charles Rankin and of Lady Bayliss, of Onslow Square, London, to Miss Jane Clark, eldest daughter of Mr John Clark, of Gainesville, Florida, and of Mrs Georgina Clark, of Kingston, Surrey. Canon Joseph Robinson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Isabella Brown, Julia de Boinville and Molly Stewart. Mr Edward Brown was best man.

A reception was held at the Inner Temple and the honeymoon will be spent in the Maldives.

Mr R.J. Oldfield and Miss A.K. de Moubray
The marriage took place on March 15, 1997, at St Lawrence's, Knodishall-cum-Buxlow, Suffolk, between Richard, son of the late Mr Christopher Oldfield and of Mrs Brian Ford, of Doddington Place, Sittingbourne, Kent, and Amicia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy de Moubray, of Buxlow Manor, Saxmundham, Suffolk. The Rev Christine Brooks officiated.

Mr T.G. Wikstrom and Miss L.A.C. Sjoholm
The marriage took place on Saturday, March 8, at Christ Church, Chelsea, London, of Ted Gustav, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ando M. Wikstrom, of Brussels, Belgium, to Louise Anna Charlotta, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Leif G. Sjoholm, of Chelsea, London. The Rev L. Sjostrom officiated.

A reception was held at the Hurlingham Club.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
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FAX: 0171 481 9313

Praise the Lord, all nations, extol him, all you peoples: for his love protecting us is strong. Psalm 117

BIRTHS

CARROLL - On March 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Judy and Conor, a daughter Natalie Siobhan.

CONNING - On March 10th to Jean and Tim, a daughter, Sophie, a sister for Aisha and Yasmin.

WALLBANK - Debra (née Freeman) and Benedict are delighted to announce the birth of their son Augustine Newell on the 10th March 1997, a brother for Bartholomew.

WALSH - On 10th March 1997 at the Royal Free Hampstead, to Imelda (née Walsh) and Andrew Bratt, a daughter Niamh Elizabeth.

DEATHS

BAIRD - James Richard Gardiner, 10th Baronet on Thursday March 13th. Beloved husband of Gay. Funeral St. Andrew's Church, Guist, Norfolk Thursday 20th March at 3pm. No flowers, but donations to Injured Jockeys, 4A High Street, Knebworth, Hertfordshire.

BAKER BAKER - Oswald Frank, on 14th March 1997, peacefully at home, beloved husband of Anne, dear father of Katharine, Juliet and William and proud grandfather of ten grandchildren. Funeral at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kirriemuir, Angus at 12 noon on Friday 21st March 1997 followed by private family burial. Family flowers only, but donations, if wished, to Macmillan Nurses.

BUTTERWORTH - Peacefully on 13th March 1997 at Downlands Park nursing home. Harold Sheeran aged 82 years. Dearly beloved husband of Freda, father of David and Ann, and grandpa to Richard, Michael and Kate. Funeral Service at St John's Church, Burgess Hill on 19th March at 11.30am followed by cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to "BEN" c/o Wm. Collins & Son, 43 Station Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9DE. Tel: 01444 871515.

CHOPRA - Doctor Yogendra Nath, on 14th March 1997, aged 73, peacefully died in hospital. Beloved father of his children Ashok, Miriam and Ram, beloved grandfather and father-in-law. Lovingly remembered by his Indian family, relatives and friends. Funeral on Wednesday 19th March. Ceremony at 10.00 am at Chani House, Lower Park Road, London N11 (Indian funeral) and at 11.00 am West London Crematorium, Harrow Road London W10. Reception afterwards, friends welcome.

CHOPRA - Yogendra peacefully after a short illness. Beloved friend of Barbara Neild. Friends and family welcome at funeral.

DEATHS

CLAYTON - On Thursday 13th March 1997, peacefully at home, James Amphlett Clayton D.L. beloved husband of Cynthia and father of Priscilla and Jeremy. Funeral at St Peter and Paul, Steeple Morden, Cambs on Friday 21st March at 2.00pm. Family flowers only, but if wished, donations to A T Wright, Funeral Director, Steeple Morden (01763 852246) which will be divided between Save the Children and Camphill Village Trust.

COLE - Ivan, March 13th, Pynes, Exeter, sometime Classics Master and Director of Music at Elizabeth College, Guernsey, at Sevenoaks School, at Exeter School. Funeral March 24th, 2pm at Upton Pyne Church. No flowers.

GALLOWAY - On March 12th in hospital Dennis Charles Galloway a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in Bishop Auckland from 1948 until his retirement in 1978. Dearly loved husband of Margaret and much loved father, father-in-law and adored grandfather. Funeral Service of Thanksgiving at the Parish Church, St. Andrew, Aycliffe village near Darlington Friday 21st March at 11am. Prior to cremation, family flowers only please. Donations in lieu if so desired to The Durham Wildlife Association c/o John Meynell Funeral Home, Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe.

GARBETT - On March 14th after a long illness, Michael, dearly beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother. Private cremation. Any donations in his memory to Memorial Care Centre, Rye.

GITTINGS - Jo, writer and biographer (also under the name of Jo Manton), peacefully on 11th March at Westhampnett House, Chichester, aged 77. There will be a private family funeral; a memorial event will be held in East Dean on 6th September. Donations welcome to Voluntary Service Overseas, 317 Putney Bridge Road, London SW16 2PN.

GOSLING - Wyn, late of Beirut, Lebanon, on March 14th, in her 91st year, at the Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. Widow of Frank, mother of Christine and the late Pauline, grandmother of Francis, Andrew and Anya, great grandmother of Helen and Christopher. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at St Bartholomew's Parish Church, Haslemere, Surrey at 3.30pm, on Friday, March 21st. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Cancer Research or Marie Curie.

HUBBARD - Anthea. Peacefully at Junecroft on 13th March. Dear wife since 1969 of Jack. Much loved sister and auntie. Funeral Service, Tuesday 18th March, family only by request. Family flowers.

KERAWALLA - Dinyar, late of Keswick Road, Putney. Died peacefully in his sleep on 5th March while visiting Bombay. Funeral Service has taken place in India. Sadly missed by family and friends.

LAWTON - Suzy on 12th March, tragically in her 28th year, much loved daughter of Ken and Helen and dear friend of Jon Ward. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium, Kingston Road, Putney SW15 at 2.30pm on Friday 21st March. Suzy loved flowers, but flowers or donations if desired for the London Chest Hospital, may be sent to Ashton Funeral Services, 140 Alexandra Road, London SW19.

OPPENHEIMER - Pamela Fenn. On March 11th, suddenly in South Africa, much loved mother of Anthony and Valerie, and sister of William. A Service of Thanksgiving to be held at St Mary, The Boltons, SW10 at 12 noon, 21st March. Family flowers only. Donations to The British Heart Foundation.

RABINDRAN - Dr C Rabindran, Consultant G U Physician at Princess Margaret Hospital Swindon, on 12 March 1997, at home in Swindon, aged 48 years. A muched loved husband of Panchu and father of Ahilan, Janaki and Parathan. Funeral, Wednesday, 19th March, service and cremation at Kingsdown Crematorium, Swindon at 2.00pm. No flowers please. Donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincolns Inn Field, London WC2A 3PX Enquiries (01793) 522797

RIDDICK - Heather Wendy died on 11th March 1997 at home in Otford after a long illness. Much loved wife to David and loving mother to Charlotte, daughter to Vonnie and Anthony Richmond and brother to John. Funeral Service at St Bartholomew's Church, Otford at 2pm on Thursday 20th March. Family flowers only, donations if desired, to Hospice in the Weald c/o Francis Chappell & Sons, 27 London Road, Seven Oaks, TN13 1AR.

SPARGO - On March 12th peacefully in hospital, Nick, beloved husband of Mary, and father of Bobbie, Pip, Abigail and the late Francesca. Funeral Service at Swyncombe Church, Oxfordshire on Friday 21st March at 2pm. Family flowers only please; donations to Leukemia Research Fund or the Watlington Hospital League of Friends, c/o Tomalin and Son, 38 Reading Road, Henley, Oxon RG9 1AG.

WILLIAMSON - Leonor wife of Archie 11th March 1997 in Tucson, Arizona, USA. Memorial Service, Tucson 4th April. Donations if desired St Philips Church, River Road, Tucson.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

REDPATH - Robert Theodore Holmes Redpath PhD. University Assistant Lecturer in English 1951-1954 University Lecturer 1954-1980 Fellow of Trinity College 1950-1997 Tutor 1960-1970. Born 17th August 1913, died 30th January 1997. A Memorial Service will be held in Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge, on Saturday 26th April 1997 at 2 pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

ATHERTON - Claudia (née Williams) on March 17th 1989. Always loved sadly missed by Eric, Mary and Ann.

WARD-THOMAS - On 16th March 1995, our loving and beloved daughter Kitty. Ma and Pa.

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FRED ZINNEMANN

Fred Zinnemann, film director, died in London on March 14 aged 89. He was born in Vienna on April 23, 1907.

Fred Zinnemann — known to his friends as Mr Zee — was one of the greatest directors from Hollywood's golden age. His work, intelligently distinguished and thoughtfully restrained, cast a long shadow over the movie-making world. He was admired for the diversity of his output which included costume drama, a big-budget musical, action and adventure films and quiet studies of human emotion. But what all his films had in common was a fastidious perfectionism and a ravishing visual panache.

Zinnemann's masterpieces include *High Noon*, arguably the greatest western ever made; *From Here to Eternity*, perhaps the finest war film; *Oklahoma!*, one of the most praised musicals; and *A Man for All Seasons*, among the most acclaimed historical dramas. He also made *The Day of the Jackal*, *Julia* and *The Nun's Story*. His array of awards and trophies include two best director and two best picture Oscars, nine Oscar nominations, three Golden Globes and a US Congressional Life Achievement Award.

Zinnemann's skill at unearthing obscure actors kick-started some of the most dazzling screen careers. Marlon Brando, Meryl Streep and Ava Gardner all made their debuts with him, while he gave Grace Kelly, Edward Fox and John Hurt their first roles of note. He showed an inspired facility to cast against type, giving Audrey Hepburn, previously known for light comedy, a moving central role in *The Nun's Story*.

Although Zinnemann made his last movie in 1983, in latter years — an elderly mild-mannered Viennese man with an engagingly sweet smile — he took on something of the role of elder statesman. Directors such as Steven Spielberg and Martin Scorsese would make their way to his Mayfair home to seek his help and advice.

Yet he was conspicuously reluctant to make any grand assessments of himself, preferring to let the excellence of his beautifully crafted films speak instead. As he wrote in his autobiography *Fred Zinnemann* (1992): "All I have ever tried to do is say what I have to say in as simple a way as I can."

The son of a Jewish physician, Fred Zinnemann was born in Vienna and studied there as a law student. But as he entered his twenties he began to find the anti-Semitism of his native city claustrophobic. He would skip dreary law lectures and escape into the world of silent films. Cinema, he sensed, was a direct conduit to people's emotions, a new way of telling stories.

To his family's dismay, he abandoned his law studies before they were complete. The lure of the world of movies was too strong. His polite eagerness to learn marked him out from the more usual extroverts, and he worked first in Paris (then one of only two European cities with a film school), and then in Berlin as an assistant on silent films. Using hand-cranked cameras and evaluating available light without the benefit of a meter, he had an apprenticeship, he said, which was to determine his approach to film-making for the next 50 years. He joined a young circle of film-makers and found himself working as an assistant cameraman on three films — one written by Billy Wilder, another starring the then unknown young actress, Marlene Dietrich.

He was 22, when he decided to leave Europe for America. "If I'd stayed, I'd be dead by now," he said. "Probably not even buried." His parents, who had remained in Vienna, perished in the Holocaust. He arrived in New York on Black Thursday, 1929, as Wall Street crashed, and made his way by Greyhound bus to Hollywood — a city then buzzing with ambitious Central European emigrés just like him. But he also saw Scott Fitzgerald, he recalled, "wandering aimlessly" around the MGM premises, a walking metaphor for the destruction which Hollywood could wreak on fragile talents.

His first job was as an extra in the classic anti-war film *All Quiet on the Western Front* in 1930. But it was to be 1943 before he directed his first film, *The Wave*, for the Mexican Government, about fishermen on the Gulf Coast. Taking his cue from documentary film-makers, he used real fishermen as actors.

He signed a contract with MGM as a director of documentaries and short films — it was to play a crucial part in his education, he said. The budgets were very small and the shooting schedule tight. "I got used to making a whole film in my head." He won his first Oscar for *That Mothers Might Live* in 1938 and, in 1941, directed his first full-length feature, *Kid Glove Killer*.

In the immediate postwar years, he became known as one of a number of Hollywood directors who formulated what he called "neo-realism", making films which dealt with the physical and emotional consequences of war — the fate of displaced orphans in *The Search*, of paraplegic servicemen in *The Men* — a film which introduced Marlon Brando — and of war brides in *Teresa*. *The Search* won an award, establishing Zinnemann as one of the most interesting young directors around. Its attributes were to inform his later work.

In 1951 he made *High Noon*, a film about a brave marshal (Gary Cooper) standing alone against a vengeful gunman. A stock western was turned into a masterpiece. Zinnemann, and his cinematographer Floyd Crosby, agreed to shoot it like a newsreel: flat light, grainy textures, white sky. The theme — an individual making a stand of conscience — was picked up in his next film *From Here to Eternity* (1953), in which Montgomery Clift's role as a young army private victimised by his glory-hunting captain made him a star, for which he won the best director's award.

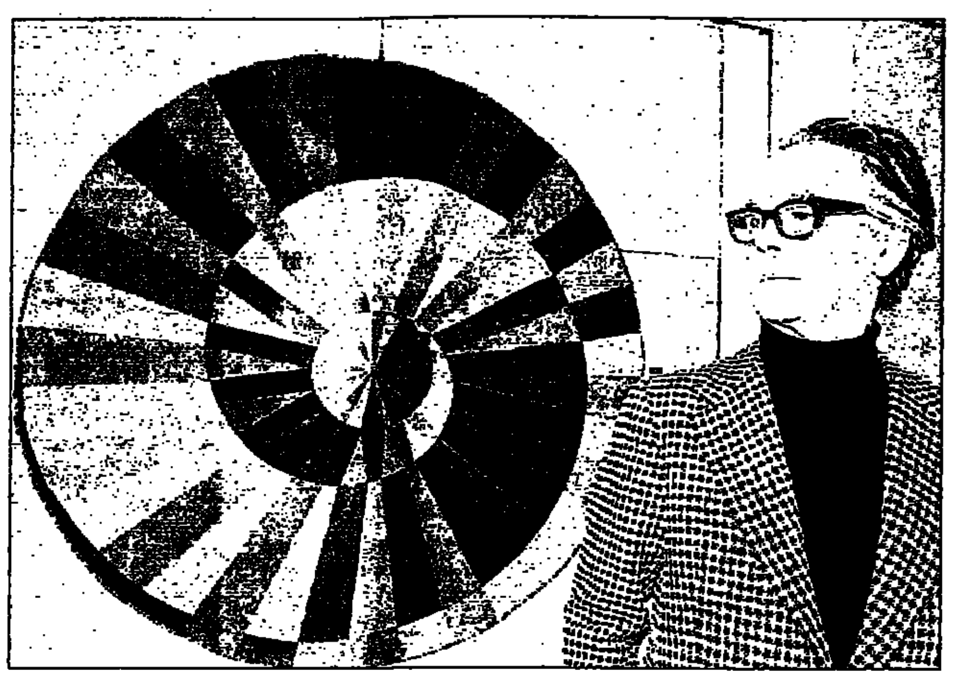
He became a fêted director, in demand for lavish, big-budget pictures. *Oklahoma!* (1955), *A Man for All Seasons* (1966), *The Day of the Jackal* (1973), and *Julia* (1977) were merely the most successful examples. Then in 1983 he made *Five Days One Summer*, a romance set in the Swiss Alps and starring Sean Connery. It was savaged by critics. The pendulum of fashion had swung, and the film was to become Zinnemann's swansong. Although he was tempted, briefly, to fight back with a film *Born on the Fourth of July*, Oliver Stone, the producer, decided to direct it himself.

In 1963 Zinnemann left America to live in London. Many of his films had been shot in Europe anyway, but he was also disgusted with the last remnants of McCarthyism, the anti-Communist witch-hunts whose excesses he had resisted throughout the 1950s. Though he often suggested that one day he would like to return to America, it was in England that he remained for the rest of his life. Based in London from then on, he watched the pendulum of fashion swing back in his favour. He was honoured with the Gold Medal of the City of Vienna in 1967 and the Order of Arts and Letters, France, in 1982.

In old age Zinnemann no longer managed to go to the movies. He was hard of hearing and could walk only with the aid of a stick. But he identified with the struggling British film industry, becoming president of the Directors' Guild and a leading member of both the British Academy of Film & Television Arts and the British Film Institute during the 1980s. And if his mobility was impaired, his vigilance was not. He remained to the end, proudly and fiercely protective of his body of films. Only last month he forced a studio remaking his *Day of the Jackal* to change its name. He objected to the way the plot — orginally about an English assassin targeting a French President — was changed for the benefit of the star, Bruce Willis, to an all-American scenario.

Zinnemann met his English wife, Renée, when they were both working on a set at Paramount — she was working in the wardrobe department. They married in 1936. He is survived by her and by their son Tim, a film producer in Los Angeles.

VICTOR VASARELY



Victor Vasarely, the Hungarian-born French painter, sculptor and graphic artist, died on March 15 aged 88. He was born on April 9, 1908.

AFTER a period as a commercial artist in which he was able to explore the optical possibilities of graphic techniques, Victor Vasarely became a painter. He moved towards the geometrical abstraction for which he is best known and which made him a leading protagonist in Op Art whose heyday was the 1960s. Op, as typified by Vasarely (and others such as Bridget Riley in Britain), was to a certain extent a reaction to the emotional content of Abstract Expressionism. It harked back to an experimental purism in which the eye was used to activate the picture surfaces. Its hard-edged images had strong graphic potential. Easily reproducible, it became commercially popular.

Victor Vasarely was born Győző Vásárhelyi in the Hungarian city of Pécs. He was originally intended for medicine and went to Budapest to begin his studies, but gave them up for art, working as a clerk to support himself and studying art first at the Podolini-Volkmann Academy and later in 1928-29 at the Mühely Academy of Sándor Bortnyik, the "Bauhaus of Budapest".

Bortnyik imbued his pupils with the essence of abstract art as formulated by the Bauhaus and showed them how to apply these ideas to commercial graphics.

In 1930 Vasarely moved to Paris where for the next 15 years he was a commercial graphic artist, daily using the skills imparted in his Mühely period. From 1940 he experimented with Surrealist notions and gradually came to the perception that by purely formal means he could create visual sensations which invited those who experienced them to think anew about space, matter and energy, as scientific phenomena. Residence in Paris also caused Győző Vásárhelyi to change his name to the more easily assimilable — to French ears and eyes — Victor Vasarely.

In the 1940s Vasarely turned to painting, and was discovered by Denise René. She first exhibited his paintings in 1944 and he became associated with the group of artists linked to her gallery, to which he remained faithful throughout his life.

From 1947 Vasarely had become finally wedded to the method of geometrical abstraction in which his most important work is done and he laid increasing emphasis on those visual ambiguities, eye-catching tricks, surprises and visual nudges in the ribs which were later taken up by Op Art, whose precursor and master he is generally recognised as being.

From 1955 Vasarely produced a number of manifestos in which he recorded the ways in which he had used optical phenomena in his art. He also experimented with Kinetic Art of which, in some senses, Op may be seen as an offshoot. He came to have a reputation as the leading artist in his field and in 1964 won the Guggenheim Prize, and in the following year first prize at the São Paulo Biennial.

Vasarely never believed in the uniqueness of the work of art. To him the artist was simply an artisan who creates his artefacts at will and in volume, so that they can be accessible to the ordinary person. Thus to him the serigraph should be to an art lover what the paperback is to the passionate reader. He also collaborated with architects in such projects as Caracas University, which has one of his reliefs in aluminium, and the French Pavilion at Expo '67 in Montreal.

He was a master of self-promotion, and the one-man museums which he set up at Château Gordes, Vaucluse, in 1970 and in Aix-en-Provence in 1971 are devoted to the fullest possible illustration of his art and technique. He established a personal museum in his native Pécs in 1975.

He took French citizenship in 1959 and received many honours including the Legion of Honour (Chevalier, 1970).

He married, in 1930, Claire Spinner. She predeceased him in 1991. He is survived by their two sons, André and Jean Pierre, the latter being better known as the artist Yvaral.

SIR JOHN STOW

Sir John Stow, GCMG, KCVO, first Governor-General of Barbados, 1966-67, died yesterday aged 85. He was born on October 3, 1911.

JOHN STOW possessed a liberal spirit, exemplifying the old Colonial Service at its best. From his first tour of duty in 1934, in Nigeria among the Ibo, he warmed, he said, to the human qualities of the hundreds of Africans and West Indians who made his life so rewarding in the many territories in which he served.

Stow had an ever-present sense of humour, which he kept to himself as discretion demanded. He was well aware how in small communities casual remarks can be magnified out of all proportion. His success in his last post, as Governor (1959-66) of Barbados and then as first Governor-General (November 1966-May 1967) owed much to this self-restraint in a loquacious island where all local calls were free, spreading bavardage speedily among its old white families.

Yet Stow detested any form of racial separation. When he arrived, Barbados was already fully self-governing, its House of Assembly no longer dominated by the plantocracy, as it had been for the previous three centuries, but by black and brown MPs from professional backgrounds

However, bastions of prejudice, as he put it, stubbornly survived: he regarded it as his duty to break these down whenever possible. The Royal Barbados Yacht Club was an exclusively white preserve. In response to its invitations, Stow told its committee that he could only come if accompanied by his brown ADC. To his delight the club was foolish enough to ask, shortly before independence, whether it could continue to use its "Royal" prefix. After reference to Buckingham Palace the reply came back that Her Majesty would act on the advice of her Barbadian ministers. In view of the club's past attitude, the "Royal" title was denied.

John Montague Stow was born in Simla: both his father, Alexander Stow, and his maternal grandfather had been knighted for their services to the Indian Empire. Educated at Harrow, he was admitted to one of the school's larger houses, the Park, known for its athletes. One of his best friends there was Terence Rattigan — they excelling at rackets and at cricket. Stow played in the Eton-Harrow match in 1930.

He then went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge, then very hearty, where he spent much of his time on cricket and football and played rackets for the university. He did not do well in the Classical Tripos, so coming down in 1933 he took his father's advice: "You will probably not pass into the Indian Civil Service and in any case there will probably be no India to govern in a few years' time. You had better try the Colonial Service."

In a few months he found himself in Nigeria as an Assistant District Officer in a "bush" house of plastered red laterite mud. He was in sole charge of a small and remote district station: but with excellent advice from two friends whose kindness he never forgot, his African District Clerk and his house servant, he found his feet.

Later he moved to the busy city of Onitsha. The huge market there, where thousands of women ran their stalls, burnt down; he insisted it be redesigned, despite local dissent. Curiously, a little over ten years later, as Administrator of St Lucia, Stow was faced with an even greater fire, which destroyed the entire centre of the capital, Castries. This time he rushed to the scene on a fire engine borrowed from the local American base. For the next few months he was to be much occupied in rebuilding a virtually new town.

His next move after Nigeria was to The Gambia in 1938. He worked there in the secretariat, mainly trying to put the colony in a state of readiness for the coming war. It was there that he met and married Beatrice Tryhorne, a nursing sister at the general hospital.

Sir John Stow (left), Governor of Barbados, with Errol Barrow on Independence Day, November 30, 1966

A transfer to the Eastern Caribbean followed in 1944 as Chief Secretary in the Windward Islands, serving under Governor Sir Arthur Grimble (author of *A Pattern of Islands*). The Windwards were unique in that they were run on a federal basis — the Governor, though based in Grenada, went on progresses through the group with an itinerant secretariat. Stow got to know all the islands, and was no stranger to St Lucia when he was appointed Administrator there at the early age of 36.

The West Indies, like many other parts of the colonial empire, were now in a transitional constitutional period: although the Administrator presided over the Legislative Council and was the head of the executive, it was increasingly the case that elected representatives had the power, while the Administrator had all the responsibility. All depended on good relationships with the elected member, something Stow was good at. He mixed easily with the islanders in their relaxed relations between races, a far cry from his early days in Nigeria, when he was reported to higher authority for dancing with local girls. Sport helped: he captained the St Lucia cricket side in the Inter-Windwards competition in 1952 and even played rackets on an Edwardian court made for the last British Army garrison.

In 1952 he was moved to a larger scene as Director of Establishments in Kenya. Stow was shocked by the segregation between Africans and Europeans on the rail journey to Nairobi, and by the three scales of pay for the same work, for Europeans, Asians and Africans. He was to assist in their removal. Throughout 1954 he acted as Minister for Education, Labour and Lands and in his last six months was Speaker of the Legislative Council.

In 1955, knowing he felt more at home in the Caribbean, he returned as Colonial Secretary in Jamaica, then full of the drive and energy generated by the Government of Norman Manley and the Governor, Sir Hugh Foot (later Lord Caradon). Full self-government had yet to be established, and the Colonial Secretary was considered the most hard-worked man in Jamaica. Stow was mainly engaged in 1956 on the change to full internal self-government which came in 1957. The hard grind was over.

Stow now felt that, with the contraction in the Colonial Service, the possibility of a job outside it needed to be explored: but instead, to his delight, he was appointed Governor of Barbados in May 1959. His mother already lived there, having remarried into an old Barbadian family.

The Barbadian leader Errol Barrow, to whom Stow was never close, believed that a smaller federal Eastern Carribean state could emerge from the wreck of the Federation of the West Indies. This was first dubbed the Little Eight and then the Little Seven as Grenada dropped out. Stow was made chairman of a regional council of ministers, even thought as Governor of Barbados he had reservations about a possible conflict of interest.

In any event, the effort to join together collapsed in a conflict of personalities and political jealousies. Barrow announced his intention of going it alone and, after an election early in the same month, at midnight on November 29, 1966, independence came amid scenes of great enthusiasm, captured in a photograph, famous in the island, of Stow raising Barrow's hand as the new flag broke free.

Stow was paid the compliment of being asked to stay on as the new nation's first Governor-General, leaving Barbados and the Colonial Service in May 1967. He worked in the City for ten years with the insurance brokers Stewart Wrightson and gave much of his time to the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf, of which he was chairman for three years. From 1977 he was among those who met, or saw off, distinguished visitors on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. King Hussein of Jordan, one of these, so appreciated Stow that he invited him to Amman.

He is survived by his wife, Beatrice, and by their two sons.

Church news

Recent appointments include:

The Rev Deirdre Parmenter, curate, St Augustine's, Ipswich, to be Priest-in-charge, Stowupland, Haughley w Wetherden (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Alison Prince, part-time Chaplain, Greenwich Hospital Trust, to be Team Vicar, St Edmund, Riddlesdown (Southwark).

The Rev Tracy Redfearn, curate, Haslemere, to be Team Vicar, St Mark's, Grimsby (Lincoln).

Canon Graham Revett, Team Rector, Cullercoats, in charge of St George, to be Rector, Bolam w Whalton and Hartburn w Meldon, and Netherwitton (Newcastle).

The Rev David Ridley, Curate, Faversham, St Mary, to be minister-in-charge, Conventional District of Folkestone, St Augustine (Canterbury).

The Rev David Robertson, Team Vicar, St Birinus, High Wycombe Team, and Rural Dean of Wycombe, to be Vicar, St George's, Ovenden, Halifax, and priest-in-charge, All Souls, Halifax.

The Rev David Robinson, Assistant Priest, St Helen, Athersley, to be priest-in-charge, Brotherton (Wakefield).

The Rev Timothy Scott, priest-in-charge, Harrow Green Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Hippo, to be Vicar, Harrow Green Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Hippo (Chelmsford).

The Rev John Seaman, Vicar, Southea w Murrow and Parson Drove, Guyhirn and Ring's End (Ely), to be Vicar, Newnham w Awre and Blakeney (Gloucester).

The Rev Raymond Smith, NSM, Edgmond and part-time chaplain at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford, to be full-time Anglican Chaplain at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford (Lichfield).

The Rev Teresa Stott, Curate, Lee-on-Solent, to be senior curate, St John's, Spalding (Lincoln).

The Rev Nigel Strafford, Vicar, St Helen, Athersley, to be priest-in-charge, Ferrybridge (Wakefield).

The Rev Andrew Teal, Team Vicar, Sheffield Manor, to be Vicar, Tickhill w Stainton Doncaster (Sheffield).

The Rev Charles Thody, Curate, St Andrew's, Immingham, to be priest-in-charge, Leasingham w Cranwell (Lincoln).

The Rev John Thompson, Vicar, Holton-le-Clay and Tetney (Lincoln), to be Rector, Humshaugh w Simonburn and Wark (Newcastle).

The Rev Michael Webb, Vicar, Holy Cross, Fenham, to be Vicar, St Gabriel, Heaton, and Rural Dean of Newcastle East.

The Rev Graham Williams, priest-in-charge, North Witham, South Witham, Stainby and Gunby, to be priest-in-charge, All Saints, Ruskington (Lincoln).

Resignations and retirements

Canon David Baxter, Vice-Provost and Precentor of Wakefield Cathedral (Wakefield), to retire June 9.

Canon Ronald Coppin, Canon Residentiary of Durham Cathedral, to retire September 30

The Rev Gabriel Dewhurst, Vicar, Castle Eden w Monkhesleden (Durham), to retire May 31.

The Rev Brian Green, Vicar, Tidenham w Beachley and Lancaut and Rural Dean of Forest South (Gloucester), to resign as Rural Dean March 24; and to retire as Vicar, Tidenham w Beachley and Lancaut, May 3

The Rev Geoff Grimes, Vicar St Michael and All Angels and St Mark, Preston (Blackburn), to retire July 31

The Rev Keith Innes, Vicar, Doddington Newnham and Wychling (Canterbury), to retire April 25.

The Rev Ronald Matheson, Chaplain of Holy Trinity, Sliema, Malta (Europe), to retire May 31

The Rev Alan Wakelin, Vicar, Skirbeck St Nicholas, Boston (Lincoln), to retire May 31.

ON THIS DAY

March 17, 1914

The Chinese knew how to make good use of the soya bean thousands of years ago but the West was a little slower in realising its possibilities. Today, through a wide variety of uses, it plays a big part in alleviating world hunger

ARTIFICIAL MILK
BUTTER AND CHEESE FROM SOYA BEANS
ROMANCE OF A NEW INDUSTRY

A discovery which should prove of great interest to housewives and mothers has recently been bought to perfection in a London chemical laboratory. This is a process of manufacturing synthetically a pure and wholesome milk of high nutritive value possessing all the virtues of the original article, none of its many dangers.

The discovery originated many years ago as the result of the integrity of a Chinaman who saw a possible substitute for milk in the native drink prepared from the soya bean. His efforts, however, met with only partial success owing to the fact that the fluid prepared by him had an exceedingly penetrating and — to Western palates — disagreeable taste.

It was left to a German chemist to lay the foundations of the present synthetic milk by suggesting a composite fluid, made up of all the ingredients of cow's milk in correct proportion. This suggestion was widely discussed about two years' ago, but the many obvious difficulties standing in the way of its realization caused the public to regard it more as a dream than a possibility. One or two chemists however, attracted by the idea, continued to work at the subject, with the result that synthetic milk is now an accomplished fact.

The fluid, as far as its appearance is concerned is quite indistinguishable from rich cow's milk. It is delightfully smooth on the palate. On the other hand, the taste seems to some persons slightly different from that of ordinary milk. It is said that even this slight "taste" can be removed at will. A dairyman was recently asked to express his opinion of the new milk, and two glasses, one containing his own milk and the other the artificial fluid, were placed before him. He praised what he supposed was his cow's milk and expressed a very modified appreciation of the other. His surprise on learning of his error was naturally great.

The advantages of the new milk are obvious. It is of course, free from all suspicion of being contaminated with "milk borne" diseases like tuberculosis, scarlet fever, or diphtheria. It can, moreover, be made up in any proportions desired, that is, with more or less casein, fat, sugar or salts and thus can be supplied to children and invalids according to a medical prescription. Finally, the new milk can be produced more cheaply than can ordinary milk and should thus prove a real boon to the poor.

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY MARCH 17 1997

NEWS

Major to name election day

■ John Major will announce today that the General Election is on May 1 and pave the way for a marathon campaign that he hopes will turn round the biggest deficit ever faced by a governing party as it goes to the polls.

Cabinet ministers have been summoned to Downing Street to be told of the Prime Minister's plans this morning. Then he will go to the Palace to ask the Queen for a dissolution of Parliament, probably early in April .... **Page 1**

Europe offers token Albania force

■ The European Union held back from any large-scale intervention in Albania, agreeing only to offer a team of civil and military advisers. An advance team of officials will leave for Tirana today to prepare for the advisory mission whose aim will be to help with building up the police.............. **Pages 1, 12**

Eurosceptic plan

The Tories are to launch a new Eurosceptic strategy based on the theme "Europe isn't working" as a key element of their election campaign .... **Page 2**

Howarth safe

Alan Howarth, the MP who defected from the Conservatives to Labour, was the winner of a selection contest for the candidacy of the safe Labour seat of Newport East. He won more than 50 per cent of the vote.................. **Page 2**

TV debate risks

It is 37 years since Richard Nixon lost the first televised presidential debate in American history but his performance has haunted candidates for the White House ever since.......................... **Page 3**

Dancing contest

In an increasingly cut-throat market, colleges are turning to celebrity consultants and corporate sponsors in a fight to outdo each other with May Balls **Page 5**

Election guide

Where Labour, the Conservatives and the Liberal-Democrats stand on transport. *The Times* guide to election issues .... **Page 6**

Royal near miss

An SAS soldier fired live ammunition over the heads of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, with two shots missing the Duke's head "by inches", it emerged.......................... **Page 7**

Sleaze attack

Tougher laws to crack down on bribery and corruption in public life will be proposed by the Law Commission in a two-pronged attack on "sleaze" .... **Page 8**

Man who never was

Scholars are preparing to assemble at the Reading Room of the British Library to provide a happy ending to the story of an 1890s poet who made a pact with the Devil to return "a hundred years hence"...................... **Page 9**

Nazi pillage

French banks held on to millions of pounds in assets belonging to Jews murdered in the Holocaust, according to new evidence suggesting that French bankers profited from the pillage........ **Page 11**

Hussein compassion

King Hussein of Jordan braved the fury of Islamic extremists and visited the Jewish families who lost teenage daughters in last week's massacre .... **Page 11**

Children abandoned

Disabled children are being abandoned by desperate Hong Kong families seeking to emigrate before the Chinese takeover.......................... **Page 13**

Brussels job protest

Tens of thousands of people marched through Brussels, over the failure of the EU to set limits to the free market for the sake of jobs.......................... **Page 14**

Colchester stars on the net

■ Live action from the centre of Britain's oldest recorded town is being secretly relayed to a potential audience of 77 million surfers of the Internet around the globe. Anyone with a computer may now thrill to the footage of shoppers, delivery vans, the occasional drunk, wandering cat and patrolling police officer in Trinity Square, Colchester..................... **Page 1**

Albanian refugee children huddle under a blanket in Brindisi after being rescued from a boat that ran aground outside the port. Pages 1, 12

BUSINESS

Blackhole probe: The Serious Fraud Office will step up its monitoring of the £90 million gap in the accounts of NatWest Markets, which is alleged to have been created by a rogue trader .... **Page 48**

Pensions offer: Trade union officials have agreed to hand over documents to help pensions misselling investigation .... **Page 48**

Stagecoach summons: The managers of South West Trains are to appear before a select committee to explain how they intend resolve the disruptions .... **Page 48**

Job figures: Ministers and Whitehall statisticians are at odds over the jobless figures. Ministers want to publish data showing that the trend in the decline of unemployment is speeding up.......... **Page 48**

ARTS

Radical move: "Perhaps the Royal Institution will once again become the place in which we are told how the world is changing", says Melvyn Bragg .... **Page 18**

High notes: John Tomlinson turns in a brilliant performance as Covent Garden revivesits outstanding production of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*...................... **Page 18**

Irish wit: Simon Callow is bringing Micheál MacLiammóir's famous one-man show about Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Oscar*, to the West End .... **Page 19**

Women of history: In Glasgow, Eva Peron is the subject of a Citizens revival of a 1960s curiosity: while in London, Joan of Arc's image is rewritten in the new play *St Joan* .... **Page 19**

FEATURES

Men Only: A new series in which men talk candidly about sex and their relationships .... **Pages 16, 17**

Tim Lott: I became aware that the sound I had taken to be representative of the wakening giant within her had altered. I stopped. After a few seconds, the snores died away, leaving an empty space into which I could tenderly collapse into ruins .... **Page 16**

Frank Ronan: What do you do if being gay is incompatible with all the other things you want to do with your life?.................... **Page 17**

Bluffer's guide: If you have ever wanted to learn how to bluff your way in science, then this is the perfect time to start. Britain is to be under siege from men and women in white coats...................... **Page 15**

SPORT

Rugby union: England carried off the triple crown at Cardiff, but they will have to raise their game when they take on the southern hemisphere countries .... **Page 29**

Football: Rangers stayed on course for the Scottish league title — they beat Celtic 1-0 — but had Mark Hateley sent off. Chelsea swamped Sunderland 6-2 in an FA Carling Premiership game...... **Pages 25, 31**

Rugby league: John Schuster, the prolific Halifax Blue Sox goal-kicker, missed a simple goal attempt in injury time that enabled Wigan Warriors to escape with a 20-18 victory .... **Page 26**

Golf: Michael Jonzon, of Sweden, won the Portuguese Open. The challenge by José Maria Olazábal, of Spain, faded and he trailed home in joint fourth place ....**Page 27**

Cricket: Australia fought back in the second Test at Port Elizabeth to dismiss South Africa for 167. Chasing a victory-target of 270 they were 145-3 at the close............... **Page 33**

Boxing: Remembering Bob Fitzsimmons, who became Britain's first world heavyweight champion 100 years ago today and was feted as a film star........................**Page 37**

LOTTERY NUMBERS

7, 24, 37, 39, 40, 43. Bonus: 15.

Six winners receive £1,500,000 each: 26 win £107,096 for five mubers and the bonus; 792 win £2,197 for five; 54,272 with £73 for four and 1,021,104 win £10 for three.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: A closely-argued assessment of the last Labour Prime Minister: *Walden on Callaghan* (BB2, 11.15 pm) **Review:** Peter Barnard on women in television .... **Page 47**

OPINION

Albanian anarchy

Those who wish to limit the damage that Albania inflicts upon itself, which is a proper objective for Europe's statesmen, had better turn their attention to how best to restore confidence once events have run their course.................. **Page 21**

Car wars

The public is fed up with neglect of the country's transport system. The Conservatives have discovered, too late, that good transport is vital not only to business efficiency and global competitiveness but to the quality of daily life............ **Page 21**

Posterity puzzle

In the light of the odd history of Enoch Soames, is it possible to confuse even the rigorous judgment of posterity?.............. **Page 21**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Most Tories are opposed to the single currency, but they cannot say so because Kenneth Clarke will not let them, and the Prime Minister has not overr·led his Chancellor. I honestly do not know whether John Major is a closet Eurofanatic pretending to be Eurosceptic, or vice versa............................ **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

We are not talking about movements at the margin now. The Tories need a political earthquake, and I do not yet hear any subterranean rumblings................. **Page 20**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

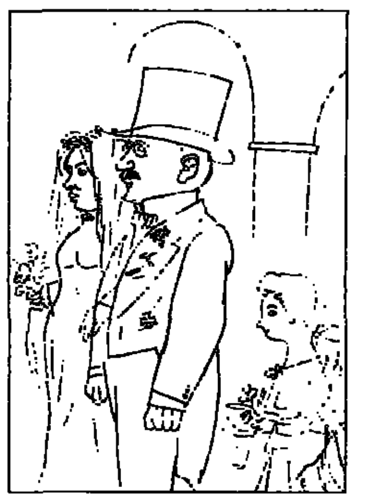
A fair and humane prison system, Winston Churchill said, is the hallmark of a civilised society. If that is the case, then a Government presiding over a prison regime that allows young women to kill themselves in despair has lost touch with civilised values......... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Fred Zinnemann, film director; **Victor Vasarely**, painter and artist; **Sir John Stow**, first Governor General of Barbados .... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Lord Bethell on Albania; primary schools' league tables; future of London's Underground..... **Page 21**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ANGRY ARTIST
Gloom and doom:
the Royal Academy
showcases Germany's
George Grosz

■ MEN ONLY
The novelist
Alexander Stuart on
danger, disorder and
high erotic anxiety

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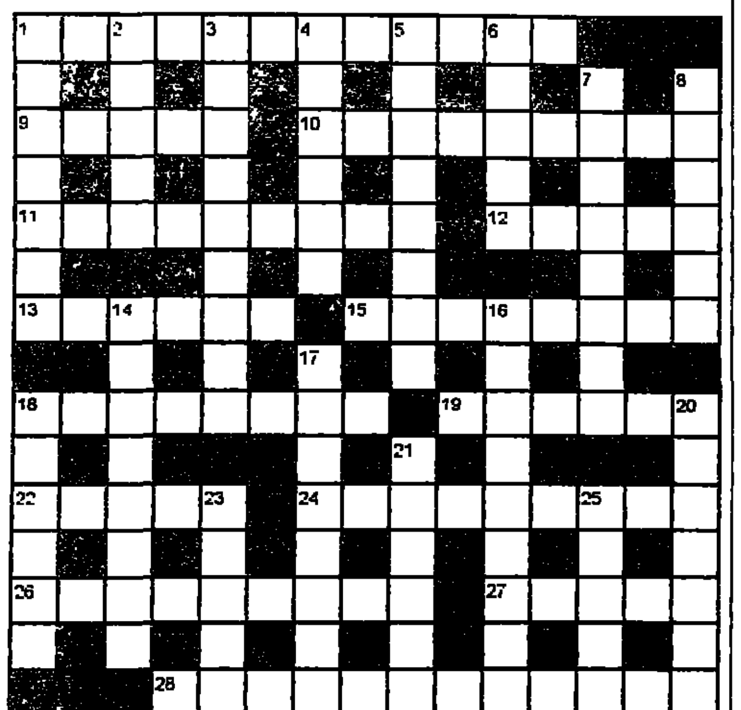

ACROSS

1 Today's man isn't commonly beset by argument and strain (5.7).
9 Flower removed from bed in short row (5).
10 Night not so far away as female enters plant (9).
11 Writer has to aim bullet first (9).
12 Alice's new name (5).
13 Selling five off, making killing (6).
15 Striking approach said to tip the scales (8).
18 National emblem that's made of paste? (8).
19 Pursued with determination (6).
22 Authentic English processed food (5).
24 Truthfulness increased for the rest (5.4).
26 Hard Spaniard, perhaps, concealing name of European island (9).
27 Modern style of painting making zero net return (2.3).
28 Retire injured after 26 runs into dog (5.7).

DOWN

1 Crosswords should be like medicine, easy to take? (7).
2 Drive up motorway, training new driver (5).
3 With money less tight, one provides access to some food (3-6).
4 Scored very classic half-century in attack (6).
5 Call 3 with regret, and sound convincing (4.4).
6 Oil mixed in small quantity for tummy trouble (5).
7 Home that's sound as a bell outside and fine inside (8).
8 Open ornamental clasp audibly (6).
14 Such criticism could be construed as a bit dire (8).
16 Criminal rode? (5-4).
17 Geese heard in Western Isles (8).
18 Romantic writer has knocked up about two pages on love (6).
20 Generous person passing round 'at for another (7).
21 Bird left trapped (6).
23 Nothing invested in English education? That's a blunder (5).
25 Some womanising Sultan's subject (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,428 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Heathrow, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland 1.18in; highest sunshine, Torquay, Devon 7.9hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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AirUK

FORECAST

☐ **General:** In England and Wales, some western coasts and hills will be dull with spots of drizzle in the morning, becoming more widespread and persistent later. Elsewhere, bright weather with sunny intervals is likely after early mist has cleared.

For Scotland and Northern Ireland, eastern Scotland and the east of the Province should have a bright morning with some sunshine. Cloud and drizzle in western areas is expected to become more widespread during the day. Heavier rain is likely in northwest Scotland later.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N England, NE England:** some early mist and cloud clearing, Bright or sunny periods developing. Winds light, westerly. Mild. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** rather cloudy, drizzle in places, bright for a time away from coasts. Winds moderate, southwest. Mild. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, N Ireland:** rather cloudy but mainly dry at first, some brighter intervals. More general cloud and rain later. Winds moderate, southwest. Mild. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavier later. Winds southerly, fresh in places. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday:** Much colder weather is expected behind fronts coming from the north.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b = bright, c = cloud; d = drizzle, ds = dust storm; du = dull; f = fair; fg = fog, g = gale, h = hail, r = rain; sh = shower; sl = sleet; sn = snow; s = sun; t = thunder

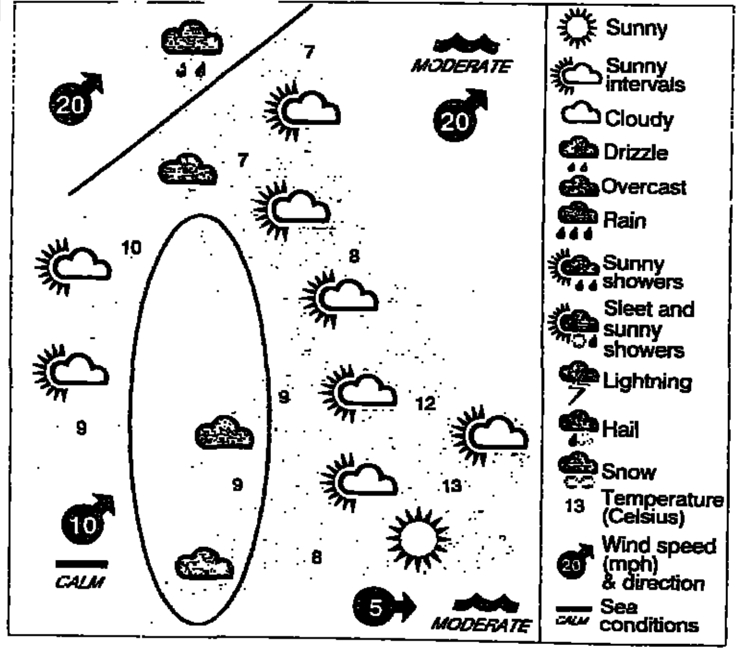
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.27	[illegible]	56	c	Leuchars	4.5	0.16	15	59	b
Anglesey	X					Littlehmptn	3.8	-	14	57	s
Aspatria	0.1	0.01	11	52	d	London	3.9	-	16	61	s
Aviemore	1.7	0.17	13	56	r	Lowestoft	3.1	-	14	57	c
Belfast	0.1	0.01	12	54	du	Manchester	0.2	0.01	14	57	c
Birmingham	6.2	-	15	59	b	Margate	5.5	0.01	15	59	b
Bognor R	5.1	-	15	59	s	Minehead	5.3	0.01	12	54	s
Bournem'th	6.9	-	14	57	s	Morecambe	-	0.01	10	50	r
Bristol	4.3	0.01	12	54	s	Newcastle	4.6	0.10	13	55	b
Burton	-	0.07	11	52	du	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	0.2	0.01	11	52	c	Norwich	3.0	-	13	55	b
Clacton	3.5	-	14	57	du	Oxford	6.5	-	15	59	b
Colwyn Bay	7.3	-	16	61	s	Penzance	X	-	11	52	du
Cromer	3.4	-	13	55	s	Poole	4.3	-	15	59	s
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	-	16	61	s
Eastbourne	X					Ross-o-wye	7.7	-	14	57	s
Edinburgh	-	0.11	12	54	d	Sandown	4.0	-	14	57	s
Eskdalemuir	-	0.24	10	50	d	Saunton Snd	-	-	10	50	c
Exmouth	3.6	0.01	12	54	s	Scarboro'	4.2	-	13	55	s
Falmouth	-	0.01	11	52	c	Shanklin	4.2	-	13	55	s
Fishguard	4.9	-	12	54	s	Shrewsbury	7.4	-	13	55	s
Folkestone	6.1	-	16	61	s	Skegness	-	-	14	57	c
Glasgow	X					Southend	X				
Guernsey	-	0.01	11	52	c	Southport	2.3	-	11	52	b
Hastings	4.0	-	12	54	s	Southsea	3.5	-	14	57	s
Hayling I.	4.0	-	14	57	s	Stornoway	-	0.65	11	52	r
Herne Bay	4.7	-	14	57	b	Swanage	6.8	-	15	59	s
Hove	5.5	X	14	57	b	Teignmouth	5.6	-	14	57	s
Hunstanton	X	-	11	52	b	Tenby	0.7	0.01	12	54	b
Isle of Man	2.0	-	12	54	b	Tiree	0.1	0.09	11	52	d
Jersey	-	0.01	10	50	fg	Torquay	7.9	-	16	61	s
Kinloss	1.7	0.12	14	57	r	Ventnor	4.4	-	13	55	s
Leeds	2.7	0.01	13	55	b	West-s-mare	0.3	-	12	54	du
Lerwick	-	0.15	1	34	sn	Weymouth	4.8	-	12	54	s

ABROAD

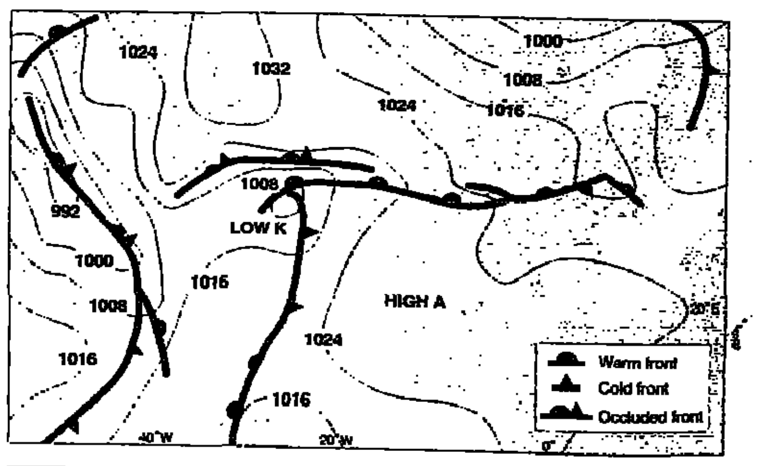
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	s	Corfu	16	61	s	Majorca	21	70	s	Rome	18	64	s
Akrotiri	17	63	f	C'phagn	3	37	f	Malaga	18	64	s	S Frisco	17	63	-
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dublin	13	55	f	Malta	17	63	s	S Paulo	20	68	r
Algiers	X			Dubrovnik	16	61	f	Melb'rne	18	64	c	Salzburg	10	50	r
Amst'dm	10	50	c	Faro	19	66	s	Mexico C	22	72	s	Santiago	23	73	s
Athens	18	64	s	Florence	19	66	s	Miami	26	79	s	Seoul	9	48	f
B Aires	26	79	f	Frankfurt	13	55	c	Milan	22	72	s	Sing'por	30	86	f
Bahrain	21	70	c	Funchal	18	64	f	Montreal	5	23	fg	St'kholm	-1	30	f
Bangkok	34	93	f	Geneva	13	55	c	Moscow	-1	30	sn	Strasb'rg	15	59	c
Barbados	25	82	c	Gibraltar	19	66	f	Munich	10	50	c	Sydney	24	75	f
Barcelona	17	63	s	Helsinki	2	28	s	N Delhi	25	77	s	Tangier	20	68	s
Beirut	12	54	f	Hong K	21	70	c	N York	6	43	s	Tel Aviv	10	50	f
Belgrade	15	59	f	Innsbrck	11	52	f	Nairobi	29	84	f	Tenerife	21	70	s
Berlin	5	41	f	Istanbul	10	50	s	Naples	19	66	s	Tokyo	6	43	r
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jeddah	25	77	f	Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	-7	19	sn
Biarritz	15	59	c	Jo'burg	19	66	c	Oslo	3	37	s	Tunis	17	63	f
Borde'x	17	63	f	L Angels	17	63	-	Paris	15	59	f	Valencia	22	72	s
Brussels	11	52	c	L Palmas	21	70	f	Peking	9	48	s	Vanc'ver	6	43	s
Budapest	12	54	f	Le Touqt	9	48	f	Perth	22	72	c	Venice	16	61	s
Cairo	19	66	f	Lisbon	20	68	s	Prague	5	41	r	Vienna	10	50	c
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Locarno	22	72	s	Reykjavik	-2	28	sn	Warsaw	2	36	f
Ch'church	22	72	f	Luxembg	9	48	c	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wash'ton	7	45	f
Chicago	-5	23	s	Luxor	23	73	s	Rio de J	27	81	f	Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Cologne	12	54	c	Madrid	19	66	s	Riyadh	20	68	f	Zurich	14	57	f

Temperatures at midday, local time. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon, high A will remain slow-moving to the south of the UK. Low K will deepen and move slowly northeast



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	07.46	6.1	20.15	5.9	Leith	09.07	4.4	21.51	4.4
Aberdeen	08.00	3.4	20.51	3.3	Liverpool	05.18	7.3	18.07	7.1
Avonmouth	00.29	10.0	13.18	9.6	Lowestoft	04.06	2.1	16.21	2.1
Belfast	05.33	3.0	18.24	2.9	Margate	06.02	3.9	18.36	3.8
Cardiff	00.15	9.4	13.04	9.0	Milford Haven	00.00	5.2	12.42	5.0
Devonport	11.54	4.2	-	-	Newquay	11.43	5.1	-	-
Dover	05.09	5.4	17.52	5.2	Oban	-	-	13.37	2.7
Dublin (N Wall)	06.18	3.5	19.01	3.4	Penzance	11.12	4.2	23.57	4.2
Falmouth	11.25	4.0	-	-	Portland	00.03	1.3	12.54	1.1
Greenock	06.57	2.9	19.00	2.6	Portsmouth	06.45	3.8	18.36	3.7
Harwich	05.30	3.2	18.11	3.0	Shoreham	05.02	4.7	17.57	4.7
Holyhead	04.46	4.4	17.33	4.3	Southampton	04.51	3.6	17.42	3.5
Hull (Albert D)	00.09	7.2	12.37	7.0	Swansea	00.06	7.3	12.47	7.1
Ilfracombe	-	-	12.25	6.7	Tees	10.13	4.2	22.58	4.2
King's Lynn	00.19	4.9	12.48	4.8	Walton-on-N	05.39	3.4	18.13	3.2

All times GMT. Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.10 am	Sun sets: 6.09 pm
Moon sets 2.35 am	Moon rises 11.44 am

London 6.09 pm to 6.08 am
Bristol 6.18 pm to 6.18 am
Edinburgh 6.21 pm to 6.20 am
Manchester 6.17 pm to 6.16 am
Penzance 6.30 pm to 6.30 am

Full moon March 24

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هكذا من الأرشيف

TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

GOING, GOING, GONE
Sentimentalists have a field day at Cardiff
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SPORT FOR ALL
Equals in the field of martial arts
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 17 1997

SUNDERLAND'S PLIGHT DEEPENS AT THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS

Zola the man for all seasons

CHELSEA 6
Zola (38), Sinclair (43), Petrescu (51), Hughes (78, 89), Di Matteo (90)

SUNDERLAND 2
Stewart (58), Rae (60)

Attendance: 24,027

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WITH spring very clearly in the Fulham Road air yesterday, the essence brought very different portents to Chelsea and to Sunderland. The gulf between a side seeking to justify itself as fit for European competition, and one desperate to avoid the drop out of the FA Carling Premiership, was hugely apparent.

There were eight goals, six yellow cards, all for violent tackles, a miniature fightback by Sunderland when they were three goals down, and for Chelsea, a warning that with goalkeeping like this they must take nothing for granted in the FA Cup semi-final against Wimbledon.

The priorities yesterday were so very different. Chelsea had been told often enough by Ruud Gullit, their manager, to maintain their concentration, to lace their undoubted virtue with a determination to win league matches. Sunderland have a coarser aim: to squeeze every morsel of effort out of limited professionals, to survive no matter how they look in the process.

For that reason there was still a stalemate after 38 minutes. Wise, orchestrating his team from midfield, set the degrading mark of studs into the shin of Bracewell, but also managed to show much perception, much accuracy, in his legitimate work. However, Bridges, with a header over the bar, and Mullin, his partner, who forced Grodas to a reflex save, could both have put Sunderland ahead moments before Chelsea actually did score, with the most thrilling goal of the eight.

It came from Zola. Surprised? Of course not. He has never stopped illuminating English games since he came here before the winter and, now that spring is sprung, he has not lost the appetite. Petrescu, the Romanian, created the opening with marvellous invention of his own, stepping over the ball, turning, and intuitively reversing the pass to Zola. The Italian, perfectly balanced, volleyed the shot right-footed past a helplessly stranded Perez, a Frenchman who makes goalkeeping appear every bit as theatrical as Grobbelaar does.

That was the 38th minute, and Zola became the provider four minutes later. Receiving a short corner from Wise on the right, he swivelled on the ball, swung it with his left foot high into the goalmouth and though Myers missed it, Sinclair, behind him, met the ball with a downward header for his first goal of the season for Chelsea.

When, six minutes after half-time, Wise and Di Matteo produced sweet counter-attacking skills, Zola had the goal at his mercy once again. Perez denied him with a jack-knife dive to push the ball away, but Petrescu gleefully pounced on the rebound to score.

Chelsea's vengeance for losing 3-0 to Sunderland at Roker Park was apparently complete.

Wise was fortunate to stay on the pitch, receiving no more than a lecture for an elbow into the face of Bridges, but this resort to uncouth play seemed only to herald the spirited revival from Sunderland.

On the hour, and two minutes after it, Sunderland scored. Grodas, one of four goalkeepers Chelsea have used this season, did his utmost to give the advantage away. His vulnerability beneath the high ball was grotesque, his judgment timid and almost comical.

When Kelly lofted the ball, rugby-style, beneath his crossbar, Grodas feebly punched it, presenting Stewart with a free header into his net. Two minutes later, another high ball, more panic around the goalkeeper, and after Melville had a shot blocked by the leg of Clarke, Rae prodded the ball over the line from seven yards. Both Sunderland substitutes had scored, and Peter Reid, the manager, had reformed his side into a 3-5-2 formation, reflecting Chelsea's own style.

The thuggery was not yet spent. Rae, the fourth member of the Sunderland team to lunge into unfair tackles, put Myers out of the game, and out for an indeterminate period. "The shin is all over the place because of the studs of the opposition," Gullit said.

That foul created a cameo role for Paul Parker, a defender on loan, a wanderer of the league, and only the fourth player in 90 years to pull on the shirts of Chelsea, Queens Park Rangers and Fulham, the complete West London set.

Gradually, Chelsea's elegant skills began to mean more than the effort, the desperation, of Sunderland. In the 78th minute it became 4-2 when Hughes, contolling a loose ball 30 yards out, muscled his way through Melville's weak challenge, and then, as Perez came towards him, easily side-footed home.

The same player, still hungry in his 33rd year, claimed a second goal a minute from time when Vialli, on at last as a substitute, broke through an almost non-existent defence. Before Sunderland could regroup, before anyone could blink, the quality of Petrescu had fashioned the sixth goal, eagerly finished by Di Matteo.

For Chelsea, six goals for the first time since 1990. For Sunderland? "We've got Nottingham Forest next week", Reid said. "We've got to get back to solid, defensive basics by then. I think the word kamikaze come to mind for what happened today.

"Zola is a terrific player, the game may have been entertaining in a popcorn sort of way, but we have to stay in this division, and to do that we've got to do what was our best feature this season — defend properly."

CHELSEA (3-5-2): F Grodas — F Sinclair, S Clarke, A Myers (sub P Parker, 67min) — D Petrescu, R Di Matteo, D Wise, C Burley, S Minto — M Hughes, G Zola (sub: G Vialli, 84)

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): L Perez — G Hall (sub: A Rae, 46), A Melville, R Ord, D Kubicki — D Kelly, P Bracewell, K Ball, M Gray — M Bridges (sub: L Howey, 80), J Mullin (sub: P Stewart, 46)

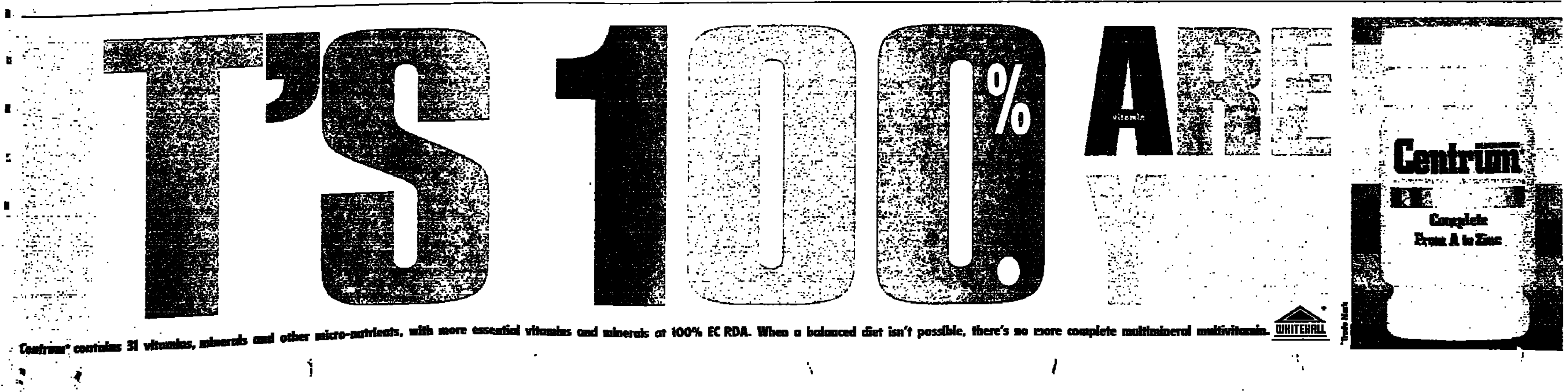
Referee: G Willard

Vialli, a late substitute for Chelsea, flies into a challenge with Perez, the beleaguered Sunderland goalkeeper, at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	30	17	9	4	59	33	60
Liverpool	30	16	9	5	51	25	57
Arsenal	31	16	9	6	51	26	57
Newcastle	29	15	6	8	58	35	51
Shelf Wed	30	12	12	6	39	35	48
Aston Villa	30	13	8	9	35	27	47
Chelsea	29	12	10	7	50	43	46
Wimbledon	28	12	8	8	40	35	44
Leeds	31	11	7	13	24	32	40
Tottenham	29	11	5	13	35	38	38
Leicester	29	10	7	12	34	41	37
Blackburn	29	8	12	9	32	28	36
Everton	30	9	9	12	37	43	36
Derby	30	7	11	12	31	45	32
Sunderland	31	8	8	15	28	47	32
Coventry	31	6	12	13	26	43	30
West Ham	29	7	8	14	27	39	29
Nottm Forest	31	6	11	14	28	47	29
Southampton	29	6	8	15	37	48	26
† Middlesbrough	28	7	7	14	40	50	25

† Middlesbrough deducted three points



Centrum® contains 31 vitamins, minerals and other micro-nutrients, with more essential vitamins and minerals at 100% EC RDA. When a balanced diet isn't possible, there's no more complete multimineral multivitamin.

BBC's league of nations will be hard to top

SIMON WILDE

TV ACTION REPLAY

No more Arms Park, no more Parc des Princes, no more Rob Andrew and Jonathan Davies. And — though this was one last hurray that the corporation did not allude to on Saturday afternoon — no more BBC monopoly of the five nations' rugby union championship. Next season live coverage of England's home matches will be in the hands of Sky Sports.

The Beeb was clearly determined to go out in style, despite England's inconvenient defeat against France a fortnight earlier. The championship was still at stake — at least theoretically — and for the first time in years it decided, ambitiously, to show both final-round matches live. *Grandstand* screened the first half from Paris before devoting itself to the whole of the game in Cardiff, while the second half of the France-Scotland match was picked up by BBC2.

In all, there were four hours of coverage on one channel and an hour on the other, but not even the most expert channel-hopper could properly watch both games at once. Why the organisers of a championship consisting of only ten matches have thought it prudent for years to play the fixtures on five afternoons rather than five Saturdays and Sundays must baffle anyone who has never run an amateur sport.

That, though, was nothing to do with the BBC and, although there was rich potential for ball-fumbling on its part, it came through the afternoon well, despite some most unpromising early signs.

For a start, the trend for modern sportsmen to swap boots for microphone had been sent into alarming reverse.

Rob Andrew, one of the BBC's regular summarisers, had been unexpectedly recalled to the England replacements' bench, while Jonathan Davies, who has also imparted expert analysis recently, was chosen to start his first game for Wales in nine years.

The BBC responded by calling up Jonathan Callard as a late replacement for Andrew, while Arwel Thomas, whose injury enabled Davies to play, Rory Underwood and Nigel Walker were also asked to give viewers the benefit of their wisdom.

Unfortunately, their remarks did not often progress from first-phase platitudes to second-phase insights, and judging by Steve Rider's wistful remarks, as we watched Andrew arrive at the Arms Park, he feared as much.

Nor did things start happily in Paris. For several minutes there was interference on sound, as though we were listening to Bill McLaren from the top of a windy flag-pole situated in the Place de la Concorde.

And, as we were run through the teams, mugshot by mugshot, the face of the Princess Royal suddenly appeared, placing her somewhere in the midst of the Scotland scrum. She's keen, but not that keen.

It was also soon apparent that there was to be a limit to the excitement as France took early control of their game, leaving Rider to grasp at a late first-half try by Scotland as evidence that they were not about to be routed. They were.

But it did not matter: it did not need a cliff-hanging afternoon to remind us of what we will miss on occasions next season.

Rugby union is a complex and seemingly chaotic game to all but the initiated and it needs a steady hand on the tiller if the armchair enthusiast is to be nursed through an afternoon in the belief that he understands what he is watching.

The measured tones of the BBC's match commentators have done this skilfully for years and they will not be easily matched, as Sky Sports' evening screening of the game — delayed by 30 minutes because the Test match in Port of Spain overran — suggested.

One incident, after Andrew came on for the closing minutes at Cardiff, illustrated the point. He was soon feeding the ball to Carling, also probably playing his last England match. Nigel Starmer-Smith caught the pass effortlessly before continuing on his way: "... it's like memories of old, this line-up ..." The poignancy of the moment passed the Sky team by.

SQUASH

Khan shows youngster he is still the master

From Colin McQuillan in Linz

JANSHER KHAN, the world champion, has begun his European preparation for the British Open championship next month in all-too-familiar fashion, beating a young and promising challenger to take the Austrian Open title.

This time it was Dan Jenson, a tall, likeable 21-year-old from Adelaide, ranked No 18 in the world, who had reached the final with sparkling wins over Derek Ryan, the Irish champion, Zarak Jahan, the Pakistan No 2, and, for the first time, Rodney Eyles, the world No 2. He fought well for 62 minutes, before losing 15-6, 11-15, 15-13, 15-10.

Jenson had a couple of previous clashes against Jansher to build on, each offering glimpses of success. This was his first final against the Pakistani master and he was 13-1 down in the 11-minute opening game before he adjusted to the concentrated precision assault that Jansher develops in the later stages of tournaments.

"You have to look on these occasions as learning opportunities," Jenson said. "A year ago I would never have recovered from that sort of blitz, but here I kept my game together and managed to mount my own offensive when he let down a bit in the second and third games."

Jenson certainly contributed to a final that pleased a huge crowd at the all-transparent showcourt mounted on the main concourse of the Arcade shopping centre. For the world champion, it was merely the start of another chapter that he believes will maintain his superiority for some years to come.

"I cannot see anyone in the game who can threaten me for two or three years at least," Jansher, 28, said. He still aims to win at least ten World Open titles and six British Opens to neatly reverse the record of six world titles and ten British Opens achieved by Jahangir Khan, his legendary compatriot.

"I have beaten five different people in British finals and I cannot see anyone stopping me getting the sixth this year," he said. "Then the World Open becomes the most important target for me.

"My body is good. I can play for another three or four years, probably. I want to make a record that will never be beaten and I see nobody who can stop me."

Australia's position in the women's game has a more positive outlook than Jansher allows their men. The low-ranked women's Austrian Open final was won by Kate Major, the left-handed component of a pair of athletically gifted twin sisters from New South Wales, who look set to follow in the footsteps of Sarah FitzGerald and Michelle Martin, the Australians who lead the world.

Major defeated Narelle Tippett, another promising young Australian, 9-2, 9-10, 9-4, 9-6 in 43 minutes.

RUGBY LEAGUE: HALIFAX PAY HARSH PENALTY WITH DEFEAT AT CENTRAL PARK

Schuster lets Wigan off hook

Wigan Warriors 20
Halifax Blue Sox 18

By Christopher Irvine

VICTORIA MATTHERS

Cowie, left, looks for support from his Wigan team-mates, but is stopped in his tracks by the Halifax defence

Results 39

WIGAN were staring at a defeat when they pulled a try out of the top drawer to take the lead. Then, suddenly, a draw looked the best that they could hope for when John Schuster, the prolific Halifax kicker, lined up an attempt at goal in added time that he would normally convert with his eyes shut.

Schuster somehow dragged an effort from 20 metres across the face of the post. He could not believe his miss, nor Wigan their luck in the last action of a coruscating clash yesterday. Few games in the Stones Super League will scale the same heights this season, or will be as nerve-racking from Wigan's perspective.

Wigan trailed by 12 points at the break, fought back to lead and slipped behind again, until a moment of inspiration by the outstanding Andy Farrell, the Wigan and Great Britain captain, rescued them from what looked like being their first home defeat since February 1994.

Farrell, taking his cue from Cassidy's bustling break from acting half back, hurtled up the right and, 30 metres out, timed his scoring pass to Andy Johnson to perfection. That made it 18-18 and Farrell, who had not taken the place-kicking duties because of a groin problem, assumed the responsibility from Paul and added the conversion to put Wigan two points in front.

All Wigan had to do then was defend their line. It took a magnificent tackle by Radlinski to prevent Moana sything through. After the ensuing scramble, Murdock, the Wigan scrum half, was sin-binned for a professional foul. Schuster had landed three kicks from four attempts, including one from a touchline, but his surefootedness deserted him.

Farrell conceded his side's luck, but he praised the efforts of a young team, that was without Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly, in digging deep. "It shows the character of the team; we were very determined not to lose," he said. "Even 12-0 down at half-time, there was still a lot of heart in the dressing-room."

These are turbulent times at Wigan and an opening league defeat would only have added to the impression of a crumbling empire. A sterling first-half performance by Halifax ended with Wigan being jeered off at the interval. In the proverbial game of two halves, though, their critics among the 11,566 crowd were stunned into silence.

The display of Karl Harrison, the Halifax captain, in offloading the ball in the tackle and priming his troops was little short of astonishing. Wigan, bereft of ideas, had no answer to tries by Pearson and Tuilagi as Halifax hit them up the middle and moved the ball wide.

In defence, too, Halifax looked impregnable, until Wigan finally got passes to stick and supported the ball carrier in a six-man breakout that brought a try for Paul Johnson. Two further scores in three minutes down Halifax's vulnerable left side, by Ellison and Tallec — the second after another superb pass by Farrell — threatened to transform the game.

It swung Halifax's way again, though, as Wigan managed to hold up Tuilagi, but found no way of stopping Amone at the left corner. Schuster's conversion put Halifax four points ahead, but Andy Johnson's 76th-minute try and the extra points added by Farrell looked to have secured victory for Wigan.

A drawn game at home to London Broncos was Wigan's downfall in the Super League last season. Fate seemed destined to repeat itself when Moana was prevented from playing the ball by Murdock and Schuster stepped up. The relief around Central Park at his miss was palpable.

SCORERS: Wigan Warriors: Tries: P Johnson, Ellison, Tallec, A Johnson. Goals: Paul, Farrell. Halifax Blue Sox: Tries: Pearson, Tuilagi, Amone. Goals: Schuster (3).

WIGAN WARRIORS: D Murray; P Johnson, A Johnson, K Radlinski, D Ellison, H Paul, C Murdock; T O'Connor, M Hall, N Cowie, S Holgate, M Cassidy, A Farrell. Substitutes: L Gilmour, G Tallec, S Lester, S Haughton.

HALIFAX BLUE SOX: M Umaga; F Tuilagi, J Schuster, A Amone, D Bouveng, M Pearson, W Parker, K Harrison, P Rowley, W Jackson, M Jackson, S Baldwin, M Moana. Substitutes: B Greenwood, C Gillespie, M Perrett, K Skerrett.

Referee: S Presley (Castleford)

Coussons sweeps in to prevent stalemate

Salford 4
Castleford 0

By a Correspondent

UNLIKE their Challenge Cup win over Castleford last month, which sparked a run that has swept them to the semi-final stage, Salford's Super League victory at The Willows yesterday was far less emphatic. Only a try by Coussons, their left wing, after 18 minutes prevented stalemate.

Though denied a competitive fixture in the five weeks since the sides last met, Castleford demonstrated that they had not wasted their time. In many ways they could be considered unlucky at not finishing at least on level terms or, had they brought on Steadman sooner, even a win.

But for solid, often outstanding, defence, both lines could have been breached on at least three occasions. Nothing in the final scoreline hints of the enterprising level of play that both sides attempted. Yet, at the end, the contest lacked a player with a genuine cutting edge; a role that Cartwright might have filled for Salford had he not retired injured after 13 minutes.

With the cup-tie against St Helens approaching, this must be of some concern to Andy Gregory, the Salford coach. Rogers, who never put a foot wrong in defence, was his most potent attacker — especially on the counter — but, though Blakeley danced prettily, he rarely achieved a worthwhile opening.

Castleford shuffled their hand repeatedly in an attempt to find the combination that would break down Salford and looked at their most dangerous when Steadman and Tony Smith, their Great Britain half back, in whom Wigan are reportedly interested, were together.

With Castleford handling untidily early on, Salford had the better of the territorial battle, but it was not until midway through the first half that McAvoy, drawing Chris Smith in from the wing, put Coussons in the clear.

Blakely failed to convert from wide out and then missed a penalty from in front of the posts after Flowers just beat McAvoy for the touchdown in pursuit of a kick ahead — although Salford's supporters felt that it was Forber, following through, who probably made the only legitimate touch.

Chris Smith's scampering runs up the left flank began to trouble Salford for the first time and, on the stroke of half-time, they were lucky to survive when he ran 60 metres only to be collared by Rogers less than a metre from the line.

Castleford became bolder after the interval, but it was after a break by Rogers that the next near miss came, Flowers just taking out Coussons in the corner.

Failure to apply downward pressure then cost Middleton a golden chance to put Castleford at least on level terms when he pursued a grub kick by Tony Smith, and, though Steadman appeared to have broken clear for one last scoring chance for Castleford eight minutes from time, his legs let him down.

SCORER: Salford. Try: Coussons.

SALFORD REDS: D Rogers; F Sini, S Naylor, N McAvoy, P Coussons; S Blakeley, M Lee; P Southern, P Edwards, C Eccles, P Forber, J Cartwright, C Randall. Substitutes: S Martin, L Savelio, I Watson, E Faimalo.

CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J Flowers; S Middleton, R Goddard, R Gay, C Smith; A Vowels, D Orr; L Crooks, L St Hilaire, D Sampson, L Harland, S Richardson, B Tuuta. Substitutes: T Smith, G Steadman, N Sykes, I Smales.

Referee: S Cummings.

EQUESTRIANISM: GLORIOUS RETURN FOR FOX-PITT AT ALDON HORSE TRIALS

Cosmopolitan shows no sign of ring rustiness

By Jenny MacArthur

WILLIAM Fox-Pitt and Cosmopolitan made a triumphant return to competition with a convincing win in their advanced intermediate section of the Aldon Horse Trials in Somerset yesterday.

The ten-year-old gelding has not competed since Atlanta last July, but he betrayed little sign of ring rustiness. An excellent dressage test, earning a score of 26, was followed by a faultless showjumping round and a copybook performance over Aldon's cross-country course.

Fox-Pitt, who also finished seventh on Vital Decision in the open intermediate section, intends to give Cosmopolitan four more outings before Badminton in May.

Pippa Funnell, a former national champion, completed a successful weekend with a win in the second advanced intermediate section on Denise Lincoln's Achselschwang-winner, Rainbow Magic.

Badminton contenders were out in force and Mary King enjoyed a win, for the second successive week, on King William in the open intermediate section.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Montgomerie fades after fine start

COLIN MONTGOMERIE faced a test of endurance going into the final round of the Honda Classic golf tournament yesterday, three strokes behind Stuart Appleby, at Heron Bay, Fort Lauderdale. With 36 holes to be played on the final day, Montgomerie completed the first 18 in 70, two under par, but had only 12 minutes to rest before heading back to the first tee on 206, ten under par.

Montgomerie, the European No 1, attempting to win his first tournament in the United States, hit the pin at the short 2nd for a tap-in birdie, and took a share of the lead when he also birdied the 5th from 12 feet, but the back nine proved more difficult in a gusting wind and he slipped three adrift of Appleby, of Australia, who had seven birdies in a 67. Ian Woosnam returned a 71 for a three-round total of 207, but Bernhard Langer faded to 211, also after a 71.

Douglas defies the years

TABLE TENNIS: Desmond Douglas showed that, at 41, he is probably still good enough to play for England before losing in four games to Alan Cooke, the defending champion, in the semi-finals of the English national championships at Brighton yesterday. Douglas beat Alex Perry, the young left-handed England international, 21-14, 21-14, 21-18 in the quarter-finals. Cooke was beaten in the final by Matthew Syed, 21-19, 21-8, 21-8.

Third title for McRae

MOTOR RALLYING: Alister McRae and the Volkswagen team enjoyed a commanding victory in the Vauxhall Rally of Wales — the opening round of the British rally championship — on Saturday. McRae, 26, from Lanark, is the first driver to win the rally three times. McRae's Golf GTI crossed the finish ramp more than a minute clear of Gwyndaf Evans (Ford) after two days of competition. Mark Higgins took third place for Nissan.

Ulihrach's run continues

TENNIS: Michael Chang, the No 3 seed, beat Thomas Muster 6-1, 7-6 on Saturday to earn the chance to defend his Champions Cup title against Bohdan Ulihrach, the surprise Czech finalist, at Indian Wells, California. Ulihrach followed his victory over Pete Sampras by beating Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, 6-3, 6-2.

Wiberg shares spoils

SKIING: Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, the overall champion, and Lara Magoni, of Italy, finished level in the slalom yesterday to share victory in the last competition of the women's Alpine World Cup season in Vail, Colorado. Katja Seizinger, of Germany, finished third, 0.54sec behind the winners.

Eldredge warms up

ICE SKATING: Todd Eldredge drew first blood against Elvis Stojko, from Canada, the man he deposed as world figure skating champion last year, when the 1997 competition began in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday. Eldredge, of the United States, won the first group of qualifying that will reduce the field from 45 to 30.

Queensland through

CRICKET: Queensland yesterday reached the Sheffield Shield final, against Western Australia, in Perth on Friday. Queensland defeated South Australia by 137 runs, while Tasmania, their main rival, fell to New South Wales in the final round of matches. New South Wales, set 305 runs off 67 overs, reached their target with six wickets to spare.

Opening for Boycott

CRICKET: Geoff Boycott, the former England opener and now one of the game's most outspoken pundits, will take over from David Mellor as host of *Six-O-Six*, BBC Radio 5 Live's top-rated Saturday phone-in programme, for the summer. Boycott's show begins on May 24, the date of England's second one-day international with Australia.

HOCKEY

England find youth is equal to challenge

Pakistan 1
England 1

From Sydney Friskin in Karachi

ENGLAND exceeded expectation by holding Pakistan, the world champions, to a draw in the five nations Golden Jubilee tournament here yesterday. With young talent eager to assert itself and only limited experience available, England disrupted Pakistan's high-powered forwards with tight marking and swift tackling.

This is not to say that England's outlook was defensive: in the end it was the Pakistan defence that was in trouble and with a little luck England might have won.

Pakistan began so strongly that it seemed only a matter of time before they would score: but their attacks broke down and England started to assert themselves. Pidcock, in his first appearance for his country, shone at centre half. In the 40th minute England took the lead when Garcia took a return pass from Pearn and scored with a superb shot.

Pakistan retaliated with a goal by Mohammed Shahbaz after a centre from the right by Mohammed Ali.

Earlier, Holland came from behind to beat Australia 3-2 with Veen scoring the winning goal in the 54th minute. England play Germany in the only match today.

PAKISTAN: Mansoor Ahmed, Danish Kaleem, Tariq Imran, Irfan Mehmood, Mohammed Khalid, Waseem Ahmed, Mohammed Ali, Tahir Zaman, Kamran Ashraf, Mohammed Shahbaz, Babar Abdullah. Substitute used: Rahim Khan.

ENGLAND: D Luckes, J Wallis, B Garrard, A Humphrey, G Fordham, B Sharpe, J Pidcock, J Lee, D Hall, R Garcia, R Crutchley. Substitutes used: W Waugh, N Conway, S Head, M Pearn.

Umpires: D Prior (Aus), C Sebrecht (Ger)

Cup defeat cuts short Olton's joy

By Alix Ramsay

LIFE at the top is seldom easy, but every now and then fate makes it tougher than usual. On Saturday Olton, first division leaders in the women's national league, were celebrating the fact that promotion to the premier division was assured; but 24 hours later they had been brought down to earth by Ipswich, the premier division leaders, who dispatched them 4-0 in the fifth round of the AEWHA Cup.

Two goals from Lucy Youngs and one each from Kirsten Spencer and Sandie Lister in the first half quickly settled the outcome. It was a good weekend for Lister and Ipswich. Lister, the former England captain, does not usually get her name on the scoresheet, but she opened the Ipswich account when they beat Doncaster 3-1 on Saturday to stretch their lead to four points at the top of the table.

Slough, who are chasing hard to recapture their league title, slipped up on Saturday, losing 2-0 at Clifton, before defeating Leicester 3-1 in the cup with goals by Mandy Nicholls (two) and Jane Smith. Leicester, though, have given themselves a chance in the premier division with a 2-0 win over Trojans that lifts them into fifth place after propping up the table for much of the season.

Canterbury will represent the first division in the quarter-finals of the cup after defeating Chelmsford 3-2, while Aldridge are the only non-league side left in the competition, thanks to a 1-0 win over Crimson Ramblers with a goal by Terry Taylor.

هدية من الاهرام

Italy's overdue introduction and change in format would set seal on a vintage championship

Jonathan Davies, left, bids a forlorn farewell to Cardiff Arms Park, where Andrew, right, temporarily renewed acquaintances with Will Carling during England's victory over Wales. Photographs: Marc Aspland

French polish adds gloss to grand theatre

ROB ANDREW

It was a vintage five nations' championship. The professional revolution brought us some of the finest rugby seen for years and unprecedented levels of physical endurance, skill and the number of tries and points scored. Now is the time for evolution. If Italy are not allowed in next year, it would be a nonsense. Furthermore, instead of being stretched out over ten weeks, a six-nation tournament needs to be held on five consecutive weekends.

If rugby union is serious about developing the game in Europe, Italy must be admitted. Their victory in Ireland earlier this season and the way that they pushed Wales and Scotland showed that they would hardly be out of place. By shortening and concentrating the span of an expanded championship, you would replicate on an annual basis the demands of the World Cup every four years. The World Cup is the sport's litmus test.

Everything about a five or six-nation tournament needs to be geared towards what is required for winning at the highest level. England and France will not delude themselves that the standard of competition provided by Wales, Scotland and Ireland is what is required to beat the southern-hemisphere nations. The emphasis must be on developing and honing the championship.

The point about Italy is that it is wrong to hold them back any longer. In whose interest is it to keep them out? European rugby can grow stronger by their inclusion. Moreover, by isolating the championship for a five-week period, instead of dragging it out, you can assist the difficult process of building a structure for the season, in which club rugby can take a back seat for a short time, instead of being disrupted over 2½ months.

By having national squads together for a concentrated period, continuity and team harmony are just two aspects that can be improved. By facing the southern-hemisphere nations before Christmas and playing five matches in five weeks in a six-nation championship, England can only get better. Everything needs to be directed towards a successful and, hopefully, winning World Cup campaign in 1999.

The evidence since January is that England and France have taken significant strides. It is history that England threw away a grand slam. When the score against Wales on Saturday reached 20-6, on the bench and on the pitch there was a sense of needing to tighten the screw after what happened against France. In the preparation for the match, it was all about turning that negative into a positive.

It was an honour and a surprise to be called into the squad, and a privilege to play a few more unexpected minutes of international rugby. Jack Rowell must be getting nostalgic. I really did not expect to get on. I said to him that, if ever they needed me for a triple crown or grand-slam decider, with five minutes to go and the match won, just give me a call ... no, really, that is me finished with the international scene.

It was wonderful to say goodbye properly to Jonathan Davies and the Arms Park and get a final run-out alongside Will Carling. Will Will go? Probably he would if pushed to make a choice immediately, but he is going to ponder over the summer and, knowing him, after a few months' rest and with matches against the southern-hemisphere countries coming up, he might be raring to go again.

The demands of five nations' rugby, physically and mentally, are exhausting. The toll of injuries has been significant. You need a big squad and that is where England have got their pyramid structure right in terms of the Emerging England, under-21 and A teams. Young players such as Phil Greening can slot in at hooker with apparent ease. An adequate structure, particularly at club level, is where the other home nations are suffering.

England are bound to make up the bulk of the British Isles squad for South Africa. Saturday was an emotional day for oldies like myself, but England have produced some impressive young guns. Richard Hill, on the open-side flank, has been the find of the season, Greening is a rare talent, Simon Shaw has made giant strides at lock and Tim Stimpson's season at full back has been about steady improvement towards easily his best display on Saturday.

What struck me about the England camp was the confidence that the players have. Mentally, they are so fine-tuned, which stems from professionalism at clubs.

France rediscovered all their old flair and panache in securing the grand slam. They are way up there in the world order. It has been a two-horse race. Wales, for all the talk about their improvement, still took a 21-point hiding from England and, like Scotland and Ireland, won only one match. I do not say that Wales, Scotland and Ireland cannot win a championship again, but, on the professional path, they have a long way to catch up France and England.

Laurent Leflamand, right, and Fabien Pelous celebrate France's crushing victory over Scotland

A RECORD YEAR

- The 1996-97 five nations' championship produced 53 tries, far in excess of the post-war record of 41 and only two short of the all-time record established in 1911.
- The ten games in the championship produced 511 points, demolishing the previous best mark of 363 in 1991.
- England registered 141 points, well beyond their previous best of 118, established in 1992. France also set a new mark of 129 points (as against 98 in 1986) on their way to a grand slam. Scotland's total of 90 was their best.
- France's tally of 14 tries was their best in a championship.
- England enjoyed their biggest scores against Scotland (41) and Ireland (46) and equalled their best of 34 against Wales. France's 47 points against Scotland was their biggest while Scotland's 38 against Ireland was another record.
- Scotland had never conceded a century of points until this season, when their opponents scored 132 (their previous worst was 85 in 1977). Ireland recorded a tally of 141 against, also beating their previous worst of 116 in 1992.

Grand celebrations, page 28
England triple tops, page 29

GOLF: SWEDE REMAINS COOL UNDER PRESSURE TO FEND OFF OLAZABAL'S CHALLENGE IN CLAIMING FIRST TOUR VICTORY

Jonzon confounds the odds

FROM MEL WEBB
IN LISBON

SO THE Honest Joes of Britain did not, after all, get it right. All week José Maria Olazábal had questioned the sanity of the bookmakers who had installed him as favourite to win the Portuguese Open at Aroeira, and yesterday he was proved right — just. At one time he was only a shot behind Michael Jonzon, but in the end Jonzon, from Sweden, completed his maiden PGA European Tour victory with a closing 69 and a total of 269, 19 under par.

Jonzon, 24, won by three shots from Ignacio Garrido, who marched through the field to record a faultless 65. Seven birdies and not a hint of a bogey left Garrido three in front of Paul Broadhurst and four ahead of Olazábal, who put the squeeze on Jonzon with an early birdie, only to fade on the inward half to drop three shots and finish with 74, his only round above par of the tournament.

Olazábal insisted throughout that he was still testing himself and his tender feet and that a victory would be pleasing but surprising. That he managed to finish in a tie for fourth place alongside Stephen Allan, Darren Clarke and Wayne Riley, the defending champion, was a triumph in itself.

Olazábal has only the slightest of rough edges to polish off his game to restore it to its diamond-bright best after his 18-month tussle against wracking pain. He plays in the Turespaña Masters in Gran Canaria this week and nobody, not least his fellow golfers, would be surprised if he were to win.

Jonzon, meanwhile, showed all the sang-froid of a seasoned veteran. He was 36th in the money-list in his first season on tour in 1995 and was narrowly beaten for the rookie of the year title by Jarmo Sandelin, his compatriot, but went into free-fall last year, finishing 107th. He started this tournament 113th in the order of merit — now he is seventh.

He had not only himself to beat on this final day but also the evil eye being beamed at him with basilisk directness by the gallery. They made no bones about it, they wanted Olazábal to win. It should have been daunting, but these golfing Swedes are cool customers.

"I was surprised at how relaxed I felt today," he said. "I felt more tense yesterday, actually. I didn't want to worry too much about what the others were doing and I managed to keep my mind on my game."

That he did, but he must have felt a tiny flutter below the belt when Olazábal birdied the 2nd hole to close to within a shot. It was a moment when visceral fortitude was needed and he demonstrated that he had it with birdies on the 4th, 5th, 7th and 9th. With Olazabal picking up a shot at the 4th but dropping it again at the 5th, Jonzon turned five strokes ahead.

The key moment came at the par-five 10th. Jonzon cast his ball into the trees and, with the help of a hundred or more spectators, found a ball on the cusp of his five minutes' searching time. Elation was followed by misery when he discovered that it was not his, so he had to trudge back to the tee and reload under penalty. Before long he was looking at a double-bogey seven while Olazabal had a putt for birdie.

It might easily have been a three-shot swing, but a dangerous moment was averted when Olazábal missed from ten feet and Jonzon rolled in a 20-foot putt for as good a bogey-six as he will ever record. Only one stroke lost.

After that it was plain sailing. Jonzon had a couple of bogeys on the back nine, but, with Olazabal tiring, the issue had been settled and Jonzon's birdie on the 16th was an irrelevance. The icy Swede had prevailed over the hot favourite. The bookies, yet again, could keep their cash in their big brown satchels.

FINAL SCORES FROM LISBON

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

269: M Jonzon (Swe) 67, 65, 68, 69 272: I Garrido (Sp) 69, 71, 67, 65 275: P Broadhurst 68, 67, 67, 73 276: D Clarke 70, 71, 68, 67; S Allan (Aus) 69, 73, 67, 67, W Riley (Aus) 68, 66, 71, 71; J-M Olazábal (Sp) 70, 67, 65, 74 277: R Boxall 70, 71, 67, 69. 278: M Mouland 72, 69, 69, 68; J Coceres (Arg) 71, 69, 69, 69, S Grappasonni (It) 71, 66, 70, 72 P O'Malley (Aus) 65, 69, 72, 72; M James 70, 66, 70, 72 R Russell 69, 69, 68, 72 279: R Rafferty 73, 69, 70, 67, J Wade (Aus) 68, 70, 72, 69; A Hunter 71, 68, 71, 69: J Rivero (Sp) 71, 69, 69, 70; A Cejka (Ger) 69, 70, 69, 71, P Affleck 69, 69, 70, 71, J van de Velde (Fr) 73, 69 66, 71, K Tomori (Japan) 72, 70, 66, 71: R Lee 71, 68, 67, 73; M Davis 69, 69, 67, 74, V Philips 67, 68, 70, 74 280: S McAllister 71, 71, 71, 67: P Linhart (Sp) 69, 71, 72, 69; M Anglert (Swe) 66, 74, 71, 69 D Chopra (Swe) 72, 68, 71, 69, J Robson 72, 70, 68, 70: M A Martin (Sp) 70, 70, 68, 72. D Borrego (Sp) 69, 70, 68, 73 281: A Bossert (Switz) 70, 73, 69, 69, P Curry 70, 71, 70, 70, J-M Cañizares (Sp) 69, 73, 69, 70, P Quirici (Switz) 70, 69, 71, 71.

JOSÉ MANUEL RIBEIRO

Jonzon displays the trophy after the victory that took him to seventh in the European order of merit

ROWING

Cambridge quickly into their stride

BY MIKE ROSEWELL

ROBIN WILLIAMS, the Cambridge coach, who had his contract extended for a further three years last week, pitted his finally selected 1997 crew against an impressive Imperial College and Queens Tower line-up on Saturday, which included seven members of the victorious 1996 Henley Grand crew and Jim Walker, the Olympian.

In the first contest, from Putney to Chiswick Steps, Cambridge, on Surrey, took a lead off the start, and, hitting an impressive rhythm at 35, led by one length at the Mile. Then, after Hammersmith, Cambridge used their favourable bend and went on to win by two lengths in 10min 45sec — a good time on a slack tide.

The second race, scheduled from Chiswick Eyot to the Finish, developed into a tooth-and-nail battle. A clash of blades left James Ball, the Cambridge stroke, on his back and a further clash just before Barnes Bridge produced equipment damage, some ripe repartee and an end to the afternoon's activity.

Overall, Cambridge took the honours and will not be seen on the Tideway again before Boat Race week. Unusually, neither will Oxford. Rene Mijnders, their Dutch coach, took them to Amsterdam this weekend to race in the Heineken regatta on the Amstel River, and they will remain there until Friday.

On Saturday Oxford beat the France national eight, with six Atlanta medal-winners on board, by eight seconds over 2,500 metres and then 0.3sec over 250 metres, with crews from Holland and Germany trailing in their wake.

Oxford continued impressively yesterday. The French won the 750-metre race by a third of a length, but, in the subsequent 5,000 metre contest, Oxford won by seven seconds, with a time of 14min 19sec proving fast in the prevailing headwind.

The finally selected Cambridge crew is: bow David Cassidy; 2 Roger Pim; 3 Ethan Ayer; 4 Brad Crombie; 5 Alex Story; 6 Alan Watson; 7 Damien Maltarp; stroke James Ball; cox Kevin Whyman.

Scotland bow to command performance as curtain comes down at Parc des Princes

France restore absolute monarchy

France	47
Scotland	20

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
IN PARIS

NOTHING in the history of French rugby can match the stunning magnificence of their play in this, the last game at the Parc des Princes. In the stadium of princes, this was rugby fit for a king. France's performance throughout the game that won them a fifth five nations' grand slam was the greatest demonstration of 80-minute rugby that any European country has ever produced.

All of France's four previous *grands chelems* were secured away from home, so the scenes of emotion and joy that greeted their first success on home soil were made to live in the mind for ever. The not-so-old concrete bowl in southwest Paris, so hideous from the outside, so practical on the inside, has never seen anything like the way France played to inflict their heaviest defeat on Scotland, nor the scenes that followed their thrilling victory.

An intoxicating cocktail is brewed when the lands of whisky and wine meet at rugby. Grain and grape do mix, after all. Two years ago there was Scotland's try and match-winning conversion by Gavin Hastings. On Saturday Hastings sat high in the stands, with headphones clamped to his ears and a microphone at his lips, watching a performance that even he, a distinguished former captain of Scotland, could scarce forbear to cheer.

In June 1995, on a warm evening in Pretoria, there had been a pulsating encounter in the World Cup. It ended with France, who had trailed until only four minutes remained on the clock, snatching a three-point victory and men from both sides looking drained of colour and energy.

Now this: an awe-inspiring display of rugby by a northern-hemisphere country. England's thunderous spells against Ireland and against France were memorable, but no European country has ever played with such total commitment, skill and vivid expression from start to finish as the men led by Abdelatif Benazzi did on Saturday. From the magnificent prematch singing of a French male voice choir, which sounded for all the world like the men from Treorchy, to the final whistle, this was *the* display of the five nations' championship. It was a privilege to be present.

Never can so much effort have reaped so little reward as France's period of domination between the second and eleventh minutes, and the thirteenth and the nineteenth. By the end of that combined 15-minute spell, the Scots had visited hell. For 900 seconds, France's forwards and backs passed this way and that, attacked first left, then right, then up the centre, and heaved mightily in a series of scrums on Scotland's line. Scotland, meanwhile, scarcely touched the ball.

Perhaps the secret of French rugby is to decline to select half-a-dozen players, to contrive injuries for their replacements, to argue and bicker about the best positions for many of those who *are* chosen — and then, after all that, to send out the remaining men and let them express themselves with their own instinctive patterns of play.

That is what France have done this season. They beat Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland with what, a few months ago, would have been called their second team. France, remember, ended the season with different half backs, centres and wings, than they started it. Furthermore, three key forwards were either injured or suspended.

The enormity of winning the grand slam, of scoring nearly half as many tries — 14 — in one grand slam-winning season as in the four previous ones, deserved the full measure of support it received. If anyone thought that French support was just the Dax band ooom-pah-pahing away at one end of the ground, waving the Tricolour while singing *La Marseillaise* and some frightened cockerels, then, clearly, they were not in the southwest corner of Paris at 4.20pm on Saturday afternoon.

At the end of it all, the crowd was on its feet as the players went on a lap of honour. Dozens of photographers encircled first Laurent Leflamand and then Christophe Lamaison as they knelt to kiss the turf.

Olivier Merle, the gigantic lock, who looks as though he has a future in the wrestling rings of the United States, blew kisses to the crowd. Champagne was uncorked before the end of the game. After Magne had scored France's last try, a magnificent blur of speed and daring, he was hoisted on to the shoulders of Fabien Pelous — and this was when the game still had five minutes to run.

So much of France's form this season has been attributed to the return of Pierre Villepreux, their silver-tongued schemer and advocate of running rugby, that it is appropriate to use his words as an assessment of the measure of France's performance. "I am happy that today the players followed the message," Villepreux said.

"Today they played modern rugby. They ran with the ball and when they were stopped they kept it and ran with it again. There were 15 men playing well and their efforts totalled more than one plus one plus one plus one totalling 15. Today the total was more like 18.

"Today we saw a lot of progress from the French team. It is one part of where French rugby wants to go. Our aim is to perform well in the World Cup of 1999."

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	4	4	0	0	129	77	8
England	4	3	0	1	141	55	6
Wales	4	1	0	3	94	106	2
Scotland	4	1	0	3	90	132	2
Ireland	4	1	0	3	57	141	2

RESULTS Ireland 15 France 32, Scotland 19 Wales 34. England 41 Scotland 13 Wales 25 Ireland 26. France 27 Wales 22. Ireland 6 England 46. England 20 France 23. Scotland 38 Ireland 10. France 47 Scotland 20. Wales 13 England 34

MICHAEL LIPCHITZ

Cronin, right, fails to prevent Benazzi, the France captain, from scoring the first try of the match at Parc des Princes

PARIS DETAILS

SCORERS: France: Tries: Benazzi, Leflamand, Dalmaso, Magne. Conversions: Lamaison (3). Penalty goals: Lamaison (6). Dropped goal: Sadourny. Scotland: Tries: Tait (2). Conversions: Shepherd (2). Penalty goals: Shepherd (2)

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers), L Leflamand (Bourgoin), C Lamaison (Brive), S Glas (Bourgoin), D Venditti (Brive), D Aucagne (Pau), G Accoceberry (Begles-Bordeaux), D Casadei (Brive), M Dalmaso (Agen), F Tournaire (Narbonne), A Benazzi (Agen, captain), H Miorin (Toulouse), O Merle (Montferrand), O Magne (Dax), F Pelous (Dax). Miorin replaced by R Castel (Beziers, 55min). Dalmaso replaced by M de Rougemont (Toulon, 73); Accoceberry replaced by P Carbonneau (Brive, 75). Leflamand replaced by U Mola (Dax, 75). Venditti replaced by P Bondouy (Narbonne, 75)

SCOTLAND: R J S Shepherd (Melrose), A G Stanger (Hawick), A V Tait (Newcastle), G P J Townsend (Northampton), K M Logan (Wasps), C M Chalmers (Melrose), B W Redpath (Melrose); T J Smith (Watsonians), D G Ellis (Currie), M J Stewart (Northampton/Army), R I Wainwright (Watsonians/Army, captain), A I Reed (Wasps), G W Weir (Newcastle), I R Smith (Moseley), P Walton (Newcastle). Walton replaced by D F Cronin (Wasps, 15min); Chalmers replaced by D W Hodge (Watsonians, 55). Tait replaced by I C Glasgow (Heriot's FP, 75)

Referee: E F Morrison (England)

Villepreux's vision finds its true expression

MARK SOUSTER

bids farewell to the Parc des Princes

As Scotland have found to their cost, occasions such as this can go horribly wrong. Twice in the past two seasons Scotland have been rendered helpless by the weight of expectation that has left them emotionally and physically drained.

As a succession of former France captains kissed and paraded before the Parc des Princes crowd on Saturday, and a male voice choir, that would not have sounded out of place in Cardiff, sang, one wondered whether all this self-indulgence, albeit in the final five nations' match at the stadium, would not backfire as the country sought a fifth grand slam, the first to be achieved on home soil.

We should not have worried. Scotland were compliant in the extreme, fall guys in the final act.

It was all heady stuff from France, who were determined not to let the opportunity of greatness pass them by. None of the many thousands of Scottish supporters begrudged the French, in what Philippe Sella, the most capped international of all time, described as his country's finest hour.

Whereas in the past they could spontaneously combust, France have, when it mattered, risen to the occasion. Champagne corks popped on the pitch at the finish, but the celebrations had begun minutes earlier when Olivier Magne, of the peroxide blond hair, scored France's best try.

The 49,000 crowd wedged into the unlovely concrete bowl belted out *La Marseillaise*; the Dax band played on. The grey exterior contrasted starkly with the colour and vivid imagery inside. Out of apparent chaos, France have fashioned order, the irony being that those who have achieved this were themselves once outcasts, shunned for their individuality.

None more so than Pierre Villepreux, the former full back and now assistant coach to a dazzling threequarter line, who is a dishevelled figure at the best of times, one who epitomises the mass of contradictions that is French rugby.

How often has it been said that, once they got their act together, they could prove unstoppable? Under his influence, and that of Jo Maso and Jean-Claude Skrela, France have started to do so. Theirs is a new team for a new era and a new stadium, the 80,000-seater Stade de France, rising out of the dirt at St Denis.

For Villepreux, who has belatedly found his niche, the manner of victory mattered as much as the victory itself. "For me, the big thing was the way they played the beautiful game," he said. "Mentally, the players are now ready to run with the ball."

What Sella found most gratifying was the way that France had confronted adversity, especially against England, and an appalling catalogue of injuries, and triumphed, in the process unveiling a new generation of players, all good enough to help France towards the ultimate goal of winning the 1999 World Cup. "Three months ago it was impossible to think we would be winning a grand slam," he said.

"We can travel to Australia [for this summer's tour] with confidence. New Zealand are No 1, but after that we are second along with Australia and South Africa, with England just behind. We have 30 or 35 very good players, before we had maybe 20."

Speaking in the bowels of the stadium, Sella was asked his emotions at France's departure from the Parc. He was surprisingly matter-of-fact. "It is life," he said. "Now, that is history. There is much to look forward to. For the supporters, it will be much better."

He was too polite to mention Scotland, for whom the future looks bleak after a season of three record defeats, interrupted only by victory over a hapless Ireland. Cameron Glasgow's first cap as a replacement after a ten-year wait was heartwarming, but otherwise there was little consolation. After the match, a sombre group of former internationals stood outside the stadium for the last time and, as another band marched past, someone asked: "Where do we go from here?" "La Pigalle," John Beattie replied. It was that kind of day.

Lamaison denies malicious intent

BY DAVID HANDS

THE Scottish Rugby Union yesterday cited Christophe Lamaison, the France centre, for the tackle that knocked Craig Chalmers, the Scotland stand-off half, unconscious during the match in Paris on Saturday.

Chalmers had to be taken to hospital after being carried off on a stretcher early in the second half, although he was well enough to fly home yesterday. Lamaison could be handed a suspension, but insisted that there had been no malice in his actions.

Chalmers: fit to travel

Neil Jenkins was recovering yesterday after the insertion of a plate in the arm broken early in Wales's defeat by England. He will miss the World Cup sevens in Hong Kong this week and the closing stages of Pontypridd's assault on the Welsh League title. Robert Howley, the Cardiff scrum half, has also withdrawn from the sevens and their places go to Wayne Proctor, the Llanelli full back, and Darren Edwards, the young centre from Saracens.

Lawrence Dallaglio, who helped England to win the 1993 sevens, will be unable to captain the team this time, his place going to Richard Hill, of Saracens. Dallaglio withdrew from the game against Wales with an attack of tonsilitis.

Bristol will be anxious over Mark Regan and Simon Shaw, their international forwards, both of whom sustained ankle injuries in Cardiff. X-rays showed that Regan, who was carried off at half-time, did not suffer a fracture. Shaw required strapping during the game but played on.

Larkham's try gives ACT hope

Natal	35
ACT	26

FROM NICOLAS ANDREWS
IN DURBAN

THE team that wins the Super 12 will surely be the one that copes best with playing far from home, perhaps in unfamiliar conditions, certainly with unfamiliar referees. Ominously for the rest, Auckland, the winners last season, won and drew their first two games in South Africa. On Saturday they rose to second in the table with a 26-16 victory away to Waikato.

Transvaal collected a second bonus point in their 47-29 victory over Otago on Friday night. They lead the table by three points, but their opening three victories have all come at home.

Last year Australian Capital Territory missed out on a semi-final place by a single bonus point in favour of Natal, who beat them by a nine-point margin in front of 33,528 sun-soaked spectators at King's Park here yesterday. However, thanks to high-scoring performances in South Africa, the Australians have already garnered two more points away from home than they managed all last season. With three home games to come, Stephen Larkham's try, two minutes from time, could be decisive.

Results and tables 39

ACT look the most likely of the three Australian teams to proceed, while Natal and Transvaal, with 100 per cent records, will dispute the position of South Africa's top dogs this season for some time yet.

Gavin Lawless, playing only his second Super 12 match as the Natal full back, was never going to match his 50-point tally of last week. A minute before half-time he lined up a penalty from half-way that fell just short — it was his first miss in 19 attempts.

That he also failed with a simple conversion after Joos Joubert's third try did not matter. Although ACT won the second half 26-12, Natal were already too far ahead. All three of Joubert's tries came from moves begun deep in his own half as both teams failed to make the most of sustained pressure.

SCORERS. Natal: Tries: Joubert (3), Minnaar. Conversions: Lawless (3). Penalty goals. Lawless (3). ACT: Tries: Langford, Roff, Caputo, Larkham. Conversions: Roff (3)

NATAL: G Lawless, D Strydom, J Thomson, J Joubert, C van der Westhuizen; H Honiball, H Putt, R Kempson, J Allan, A Garvey, D Kriese, J Slade, M Andrews, W Fyvie, G Teichmann. Fyvie replaced by W Minnaar (49min). Kempson replaced by A Le Roux (49)

ACT: S Larkham, M Hardy, A Magro, P Howard, J Roff, G Logan, G Gregan, P Noriega, M Caputo, D Zammit, I Fenukitau, J Langford, D Giffin, B Robinson, T Coker. Logan replaced by D Knox (41). Zammit replaced by R Moore (54). Howard replaced by J Holbeck (71). T Jacques temporary replacement for Coker (41-67)

Referee: J Meuwesen (Eastern Province).

the ultimate Tracking PEP?

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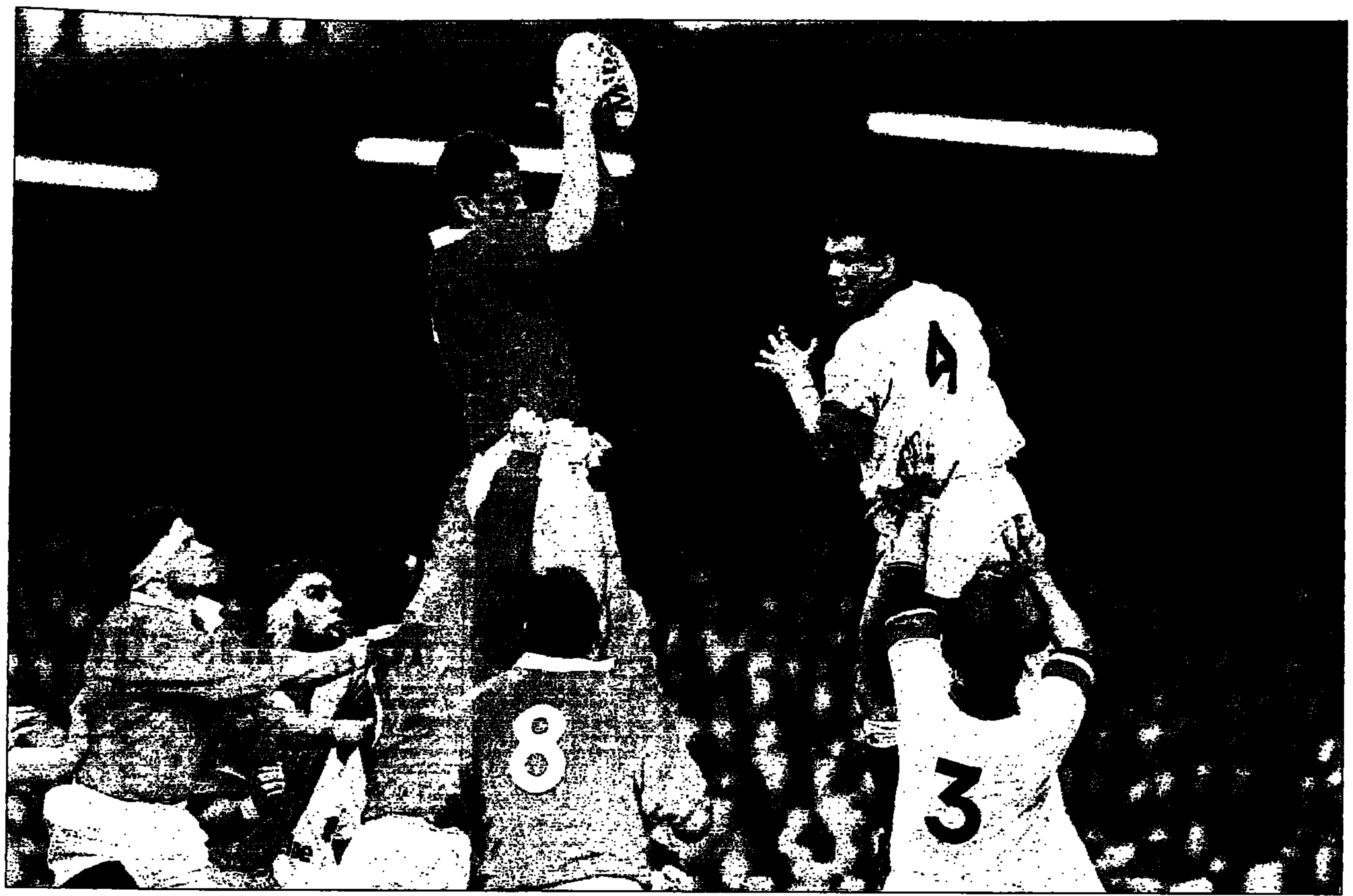
Decisive victory over Wales no guarantee of success in sterner tests to come



Llewellyn gives Wales an uplifting moment in the lineout, leaving Johnson to grasp at thin air at Cardiff Arms Park. Photographs: Marc Aspland

England wear their crown uneasily

Wales	13
England	34

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S fate this five nations' championship season is to leave their supporters wanting more. Commercially this may be a sound principle, but in sport it leads to frustration, to reflections of what might have been. Yet England's achievement, a twentieth triple crown, is about right for a side that must understand how much better it can become.

Over the course of the championship, which ended on Saturday, they have contributed as much untidy, inaccurate rugby as they have produced constructive play, yet it is significant that their best periods have come against their best opponents — France and, before the championship, the New Zealand Barbarians. They can raise their game, but they need to do so higher and for more sustained periods, a point that will be emphasised next autumn, when they are required to face all three southern-hemisphere powers within a month.

The niggling feeling as the crowd quietly trooped away from Cardiff Arms Park and the bulldozers prepared to move in and raze the stadium was to wonder what the New Zealand Barbarians might have achieved against either Wales or England. If this seems to damn England's success with faint praise, it is their own aspirations — and their own failings — that have led to it.

There is no more frustrating sight than a side that works hard to achieve an attacking advantage and then wastes it, as England did three times, by conceding a penalty. Admittedly, on the third occasion, it seemed that Graham Rowntree had scored a perfectly good try from a rolling maul, but Joel Dumé, the French referee, disagreed. Indeed, Dumé's decisions were not always comprehensible and all too often his use of advantage rewarded poor play by either side.

Yet we should not be too churlish. There were two uplifting performances to admire from England, over and above displays of genuine quality from Tim Rodber, Richard Hill and Simon Shaw. The first, and more obvious, came from Jeremy Guscott, the half-time replacement for Jon Sleightholme, who suffered blurred vision after Gareth Thomas's knee crashed into his head.

After a cameo performance against Ireland, Jack Rowell, the England coach, described Guscott as a "prince of centres". On Saturday Rowell acknowledged that Guscott would surely go to South Africa with the British Isles and would probably play in the internationals, so quite why he has spent a season among the replacements remains a pertinent question.

As a makeshift wing, his defence was outstanding and he created tries for Stimpson and Hill, the first of which finally broke the dam of the Welsh defence. More significant, however, was the second coming of Michael Catt. Before Christmas, Catt was deemed, rightly, to have failed in the England No10 shirt. Pressed into service against Wales after Paul Grayson's withdrawal, Catt offered his best-balanced display from 21 international appearances. His judgment was mature, his kicking game — with only two exceptions — entirely accurate, the width of his passing and his vision admirable and, to close, his slashing run from a tapped penalty created de Glanville's try, England's fourth.

Maybe it was the presence opposite of Jonathan Davies, the little maestro in the red jersey, maybe the presence on the replacements' bench of Rob Andrew, England's past master. Whatever the cause, Catt demonstrated that he can control a game without losing his fundamental running strengths. England's task next season will be to decide whether to offer him further opportunities — which, given the accuracy of his goal-kicking (he missed only one kick out of seven), they may feel inclined to do — or to restore Grayson.

That Catt was given the chance to run England's show was due to an unselfish display by Austin Healey at scrum half, who started his first international. Healey, whether playing to orders or not, subdued his basic instincts and offered a nicely-judged game. That Robert Howley, his opposite number, emerged in credit from the confrontation was as much because Howley was playing behind a pack which dwindled sadly in the second half, and because he had the individual genius to pick a 55-metre path to the try-line which ensured that at least a Welshman — in this case Davies — left the final signature at the old Arms Park.

That Davies, Carling and Andrew were together by the end was a sentimental touch. The best work of each veteran player was done in defence, Davies playing his heart out in what he must always have known would be a losing cause. Even before the game, the Wales casualty list was a long one. When Jenkins broke his left forearm in the mêlée that followed de Glanville's early break, they also lost their leading points-scorer and a player showing, in his fiftieth international, all the confidence that Proctor, his replacement, could not.

While Wales disrupted England's lineout, hope remained. England squandered their best opportunities, Sleightholme was twice denied and Catt's two penalty goals against one by Davies gave them the slimmest of interval advantages. Yet a 14-5 lineout lead for Wales in the first half turned into a 9-3 deficit in the second. The Wales back row made no impact compared with Rodber, who has strung together his most successful championship, and the increasingly influential Hill, who had a hand in the short-side try by Stimpson nine minutes into the second half.

When Carling's fly-hack rebounded straight to Underwood, he had nobody in his way on a 60-metre run to the line, and suddenly England were almost out of sight. A turnover allowed Guscott to glide past two defenders and mesmerise three more before sending Hill over, and de Glanville followed him four minutes later. Stimpson would have added another but for a harsh judgment for foul play by Johnson.

Battered Wales, out but not down, still offered the most creative midfield player in Bateman, and Howley's accomplishments — his try was only the fourth that England's mean defence (appreciably better organised than a year ago, Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, suggested) have conceded in this championship. To take it, Howley stepped twice off his left leg without losing a yard of pace. What he can yet achieve behind a ball-winning pack may be seen in South Africa.

CARDIFF DETAILS

SCORERS: Wales: Try: Howley Conversion: J Davies Penalty goals: J Davies (2) England: Tries: Stimpson, Underwood, Hill, De Glanville. Conversions: Catt (4). Penalty goals: Catt (2).

WALES: N R Jenkins (Pontypridd); S D Hill (Cardiff), A G Bateman (Richmond), N G Davies (Llanelli), G Thomas (Bridgend); J Davies (Cardiff), R Howley (Cardiff). C D Loader (Swansea), J M Humphreys (Cardiff, captain), D Young (Cardiff), S M Williams (Neath), G O Llewellyn (Harlequins), M J Voyle (Llanelli), K P Jones (Ebbw Vale), L S Quinnell (Richmond). Jenkins replaced by W T Proctor (Llanelli, 15min). Loader replaced by S C John (Llanelli, 23); Jones replaced by D L M McIntosh (Pontypridd, 65); Voyle replaced by J C Quinnell (Richmond, 69).

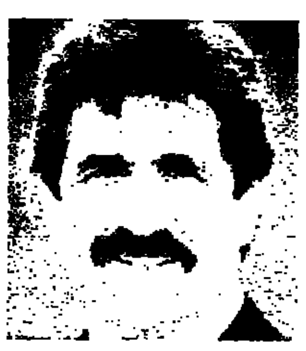
ENGLAND: T R G Stimpson (Newcastle); J M Sleightholme (Bath), W D C Carling (Harlequins), P R de Glanville (Bath, captain), T Underwood (Newcastle); M J Catt (Bath), A Healey (Leicester); G C Rowntree (Leicester), M P Regan (Bristol), J Leonard (Harlequins), B B Clarke (Richmond), M O Johnson (Leicester), S D Shaw (Bristol), R A Hill (Saracens), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army). Regan replaced by P B T Greening (Gloucester, 41min); Sleightholme replaced by J C Guscott (Bath, 41). Clarke replaced by C M A Sheasby (Wasps, 70); Catt replaced by C R Andrew (Newcastle, 73). Rowntree replaced by D J Garforth (Leicester, 78)

Referee: J Dumé (France)

Stimpson, set up by Guscott and Hill, dives over for the first of England's four second-half tries

Rowell's claim mauled by skill shortage

GERALD DAVIES



At Cardiff Arms Park

This was a poor match for Ian McGeechan to witness before he embarks with the British Isles team to South Africa. He will be dismayed at the quality of the sides from which the majority of his players are likely to be drawn. The management of both Wales and England believe that they have made significant advances this season. This is true . . . to an extent.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, believes that his team is continuing to make "good progress" in the quality of its play. Certainly Wales have played exciting rugby, but can only show a single victory in a season that had begun with high promise in Edinburgh. The only game in which Jonathan Humphreys, the Wales captain, felt they were well beaten was against England.

Yet while acknowledging this, they must also recognise the fundamental truth that they do not, as yet, have a sufficient number of players to call upon to perform on that plain. The pool of resources is shallow. The game on Saturday proved what most people had feared from Thursday onwards: that, with so many withdrawals forced upon Wales, the advantage had inexorably shifted in England's favour. With Gibbs absent, de Glanville and Carling must have slept more securely on Friday night.

Thus Wales have found the style, but need to put it into practice more consistently. Perhaps they will find more players of the right calibre on their summer tour to North America. England's progress would appear to be the reverse. They have made advances this year in that they now have a well-defined stock of players on which to call and for the Celtic countries to look upon with envy. England can be confident.

Furthermore, they have managed to score tries in a manner that had been singularly lacking in recent years. Their 15 tries contrast with three last year and nine the year before. They have also accumulated a record number of points (141) for their country in a championship. These are impressive figures that should leave them contented with their campaign, as any team would be.

The danger is that they may read more into the statistics than they should. They have the strength in depth. They have players of significant strength and size. This is their progress. They are not, however, playing in the style that they seem so ready to claim. The interactive game that they seek is not theirs yet and the question arises to what extent is it in the English rugby character to achieve it?

This team, like that of Geoff Cooke's, is endowed with power and a sense of firm direction. These qualities are allied to organisation and control. These are the solid virtues of English rugby. To say as much is often interpreted as if this is somehow to cavil about the style and as a sign of disapproval. Far from it. The team must be true to itself, to exploit its own strengths. There is an understandable reluctance to depart from them.

This reluctance is epitomised in the management attitude to two players over the years. Cooke, for his own good reasons, cast Stuart Barnes aside. The solid virtues were best characterised in Rob Andrew. The two stand-off halves differed. The team's success and Andrew's vital role in it speaks for itself. Cooke strategy was marshalled tactically by Andrew.

For his part, Jack Rowell has cast Jeremy Guscott onto the replacements' bench. Guscott is the silkiest of midfield runners and, as he demonstrated on Saturday, he can make things happen for himself and those around him with a shimmy, a glide and a sensitive pass. Anyone committed fully to an interactive game would insist on the inclusion of Guscott. He is not a wing, though.

'Anyone committed would insist on Guscott's inclusion'

Might not there be a certain scepticism in the England camp anyway? What did Rowell mean when he said at the press conference on Saturday: "It is difficult to stop gifted players playing gifted football." What kind of message did he intend to convey with those words to his players in that unsteady opening period?

No. To see an interactive game in the championship this season then it was to France we needed to looked. The reason is, in the main, that French back-row forwards, unlike England's, are natural distributors of the ball, not just carriers and chargers. France will avoid the rucks if they can, England look to create them. As Pierre Villepreux, the France assistant coach, said: "If you have to set up a ruck or maul, then, in a sense, the team has already failed. The ball should have been moved on."

The last point is that the players generally do not have the necessary handling and positional skills. Sadly, on Saturday, neither side possessed these qualities. The second half, error-strewn, was mediocre and fell below the requirements of rugby at an international level.

The danger for England is that they may come to believe that they are playing in a style that conspicuously they are not. It is their English virtues that need to be recognised and appreciated. McGeechan knows that the England pack will provide him with enough power to match South Africa in the set-pieces. We shall have to wait and see whether they can offer more.

Southampton fall victim to Wenger's cultural revolution

Wenger: diplomat

Russell Kempson sees Arsenal press their title claims with a 2-0 victory

Body language may not be an exact science, but it reveals much. At The Dell on Saturday, after a bland and often boring FA Carling Premiership fixture, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, and Graeme Souness, his Southampton counterpart, presented themselves for analysis.

Wenger, bespectacled and benign, bared his soul on a variety of subjects, from what had gone immediately before to what could happen in the near future. He answered quietly and concisely, wooing the assembled interrogators with his Gallic charm. An international diplomat in complete control.

Souness, red-faced and uncomfortable, carried the air of a condemned man. Although he no longer seeks confrontation, he is unable to hide the angst that he clearly feels. His powers of motivation appear to be waning. He does not look well.

As owners apparently resemble their dogs, managers reflect their sides. Therein lies the tale. Arsenal, though depleted by injuries and suspensions, continue to make smooth headway. They lie in joint second place in the Premiership, alongside Liverpool, and are only three points adrift of Manchester United.

If they fail to catch United, so be it. As runners-up, they would still join United in the Champions' League, which has been so scandalously devalued by Uefa, the sport's European governing body. Arsenal's supposedly transitional season, as Wenger gradually exerts his cultured influence on Highbury, is going quite nicely, thank you. In contrast, Southampton are ailing. Though Souness has bought from far and wide, his mix of continental cast-offs and journeymen Englishmen — plus Le Tissier, lest he be forgotten amid the dross — has proved blatantly inadequate. He conceded as much.

"It was very disappointing," he said. "We were a wee bit better after half-time, but, once the second goal had gone in, it was all over. If ever the players have to show their mettle, it is now."

Then, the crux of the problem. "It's a dilemma," Souness said. "We have Matt Le Tissier and Eyal Berkovic, both non-tackling midfield players. How do you fit both of them in? If we had more aggressive players, those who would complement them, then maybe we could get away with it."

Southampton started off with Le Tissier flitting flatteringly in the void between midfield and the dual forward line of Ostenstad and Evans. After 52 minutes Souness brought on Berkovic, hoping for fantasy to become reality.

It did not happen. Arsenal, ahead from Hughes's first league goal, in the fortieth minute, extended their lead when Shaw made his closing contribution to the game, before being replaced, by turning in Parlour's mishit and deflected shot.

United should beware. When Wenger wrote off Arsenal's chances of the title a month ago, after collecting only two points from a possible 12, he genuinely believed that it was beyond them. "I said then that we needed to win four games in a row to get back into it," he said. "We have now won three."

When they play Liverpool at Highbury a week today, the Premiership could take on a different complexion. Wright, Dixon and Bould will have served their disciplinary penance and Seaman, too, could have returned from injury. Game on.

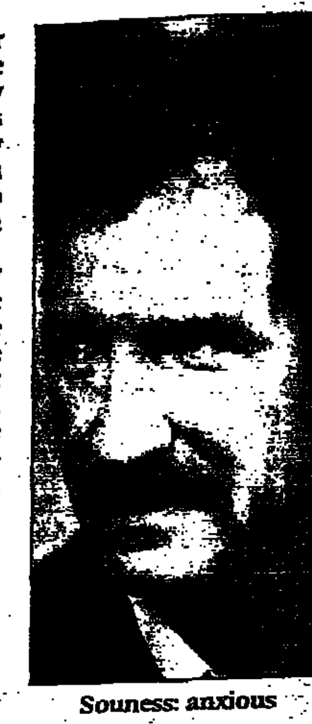
Southampton will be staring up at them, engrossed in the never-ending struggle for survival. Yet Le Tissier — the Great Enigma — exhibits few signs of stress, unlike his manager. He strode casually into the press conference, in suit and open-necked shirt, to offer his honest appraisal of a dire situation.

"The task gets increasingly difficult after every game we don't win," he said. "Five wins from our last nine games, that's probably what we'll need." Chuckle, laugh, shrug of the shoulders. He cares, even if the body language lies. If only Souness could chill out, too.

SOUTHAMPTON (3-4-1-2): M Taylor — N Maddison, C Lundekvam (sub: K Monkou, 52min), R Dryden — A Neilson (sub: E Berkovic, 52), R Slater, J Magilton, S Charlton — M Le Tissier — E Ostenstad, M Evans.

ARSENAL (3-5-2): L Harper — M Keown, A Adams, S Marshall — R Parlour, D Platt, P Vieira, S Hughes, N Winterburn — P Shaw (sub: R Garde, 73), D Bergkamp.

Referee: J Winter.



Souness: anxious

FOOTBALL

Liverpool indulge brilliance to point of being wasteful

Nottingham Forest	1
Liverpool	1

By Simon Barnes

LIVERPOOL took a single point from this FA Carling Premiership match at the City Ground on Saturday when three were there for the taking. They lost their grip on the match and probably on the championship in the course of what looked a decisive afternoon. They did so, if you like your truths unvarnished, because they are too soft.

The question of hardness, in football as in any other matter, is a complex one, and I will move on to it later. First the facts: Liverpool went a goal up in four minutes, played some wonderful football for the next half-hour and still managed to let Nottingham Forest back into the game to share the rewards.

The Liverpool goal was a delight. Redknapp to McAteer, McAteer skinning Woan and laying the ball back, Fowler finishing with a flick-up and a placed rather than a wellied volley. Some of the football that followed made you gasp at its imagination, its touch, its relentlessness. Pass after pass after pass. Wonderful, as I say.

But was it really all that wonderful? The plain fact of the matter is that they did not actually score the necessary insurance goal. Perhaps that sounds crassly materialistic. Perhaps I failed to appreciate the finer points — but then the number of goals you score does rather tend to be decisive in football matches.

When people talk about self-indulgence in football, they generally mean the player who always shoots when he ought to pass, the winger who always takes on a man too many and loses the ball, the defender who fannies about in the box.

But Liverpool are not like that. The corporate ethic is, as ever, the strongest thing about them. One for all and all for one, but the present side has elevated this concept to a point where it has become mad self-indulgence. Liverpool are, if you like, self-indulgently unselfish.

McManaman, a wonderful player who can hit the ball accurately at any target so long as it is not the goal, is the epitome of this Liverpool side. His flaw is Liverpool's flaw. Too much wonderfulness, a lack of hardness.

Manchester United's initial championship side under Alex Ferguson was wonderful enough, with Giggs and Kanchelskis and Cantona, but it had a spine of hardness that ran right through the middle of the team: Schmeichel, Bruce, Ince, Hughes. After this, the Liverpool team is an invertebrate.

Liverpool teams of the earlier dynasties, the ones accustomed to success, never lacked hardness. Smith, Kennedy and Souness (as player) are obvious examples; but let us get the idea of hardness clear in our minds. Hardness is not a synomym for nastiness. This is a common error in football and in all walks of life.

The Leeds United side of the 1970s was not without nastiness, but they never quite won as much as they should have done, never did themselves full justice. They were, if you like, tough to the point of self-indulgence.

They proved that mere nastiness does not make you hard. Hardness is more about clarity of purpose. Seeing things whole. Leaders such as Sir Alf Ramsey had it; Alex Ferguson has it. Brian Clough had it, so did Bob Paisley as he took Liverpool to their plateau of greatness.

Some years later Graeme Souness took over as Liverpool manager and tried too hard to be hard. He was not, therefore, truly hard in the Ramsey-Paisley sense of the term. In Souness, hardness was another form of self-indulgence.

Roy Evans, his successor, is a charming contrast. He comes across as a thoroughly decent man and people will say that he is "too nice" to be a real winner. There is certainly a flaw in his approach, but it is not niceness. It is a valuation of style over content. "We did not keep the ball," he lamented, but that was to miss the point by a mile. His team played brilliantly for half an hour in which they failed to score. They were unable to take control of the match, of their destiny.

'They lost their grip, if you like, because they are too soft

Dave Bassett, the Nottingham Forest general manager, said that Liverpool's first-half performance against Newcastle United last Monday was the best football he had seen by any team anywhere all season. Jolly good, but Liverpool then surrendered a three-goal lead before winning by the odd one in seven. That is not hardess.

A team fighting a relegation battle needs a certain amount of hardness and Bassett is not without that quality. The Forest side has taken on a little of it, too, but not yet enough. They equalised after James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, came too far for a Pearce free kick and ran into Bassett's save-the-day signing, Van Hooijdonk. The ball fell for Woan, who scored with the air of a man eager to atone for his sins.

This was a result in which both teams lost. Forest might yet achieve their limited objective — survival — but Liverpool look to have let the championship go. Certainly it will take something pretty wonderful to win it from here.

There is something not quite right about this team, something not quite to be trusted. In love with the Liverpool tradition of "wonderful" football, they prefer the frame to the picture. It is a lovely frame, certainly, but it would not have distracted Paisley for a nanosecond. His tradition of excellence has been misunderstood by his heirs.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-2): M Crossley — S Chettle, N Jerkan, S Pearce — D Phillips, D Lyttle (sub: N Clough, 85min), S Gemmill, A I Haaland, I Woan — D Saunders, P van Hooijdonk.

LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): D James — B T Kvarme, M Wright, D Matteo — J McAteer (sub: S Harkness, 49), J Redknapp, J Barnes, S I Bjornebye — S McManaman — P Berger (sub: S Collymore, 75), R Fowler.

Referee: R Dilkes.

PHIL COLE / ALLSPORT

Matteo, right, the Liverpool defender, grapples with Van Hooijdonk, Forest's new signing

Tottenham cash in as Yeboah loses his shirt

Tottenham Hotspur	1
Leeds United	0

By Brian Glanville

IN THE midst of mediocrity, even sideshows are welcome. We had one after 27 minutes of the second half when Tony Yeboah, Leeds United's hugely expensive, quite ineffective, dissident Ghanaian centre forward, was pulled off the field by George Graham, his manager. Yeboah, who has been saying for some time that Graham does not want him in the team, and on Saturday showed us just why, promptly pulled off his jersey, strode off the pitch to the jeers of the crowd and, in the traditional manner, lobbed his shirt in the direction of the bench.

"Petulance," Graham said, having tried to evade the issue. "He'll be disciplined by the club. End of story." The real end will doubtless be that Yeboah will be sold for a great deal less than he cost.

Leeds had two other centre forwards on the field. One was Brian Deane, who, Graham said, was suffering from a damaged hamstring. The other, mysteriously deployed in midfield, was the most famous of the three — Ian Rush. Why, at the age of 35, Leeds should choose to put Rush in what might well be an invidious position, who can say?

Up front, he can snap up unconsidered trifles and is capable, sporadically, of making something out of nothing, which he almost did, four minutes after Yeboah's surly departure, with a snap shot at the near post. Ian Walker took it comfortably.

Tottenham Hotspur dominated the first half, although Leeds improved in the second, when they switched from 5-3-2 to 4-2-4. Tottenham could have had "lots more goals," Graham said. Gerry Francis, their manager, could not understand how they failed to score in the first minute.

Sinton and Austin combined on the right, Sinton crossed and the Leeds defence allowed the ball to reach Iversen. Iversen shot, but Martyn saved. "I don't know how Steffen did not put that one away," Francis said. "Martyn made a great save, but Steffen should have tucked it in the corner."

As Francis said, Tottenham "created a number of chances which should have put us in a better position at half-time". They did, however, get the game's only goal, in the 26th minute. The movement came down the right, where Tottenham and Austin, their overlapping wing back, in particular, had been causing all kinds of trouble. Scales, one of Tottenham's three defenders, burst into attack, sent over a long cross, Sheringham headed back from the far post and Anderton, forgotten on the blind side, scored easily.

For Francis, Scales was "the man of the match". He won the aerial battle with Deane, he won the ball and came out with the ball. Once, Scales went round Bowyer like a winger and put over another cross that was returned by Anderton, headed by Sheringham, but saved by Martyn.

Leeds might have equalised at the end of the first half when Bowyer met a clearance on the edge of the box with a powerful right-foot shot that Walker caught above his head. Then, nine minutes from the end, Sharpe's corner from the right was headed by Bowyer at the near post, only for Sinton to nod out at the far one.

Each manager complained that his team had players who were not fully fit. Graham said that he needed new ones; Francis bewailed yet another injury, this time to Iversen, who was carried off with a damaged knee. "The way things have gone this season," Francis said, "Steffen will have a ligament problem."

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-5-2): I Walker — C Calderwood, J Scales, S Campbell — D Austen, J Dozzell, A Sinton, D Anderton, S Carr — S Iversen (sub: R Rosenthal, 82min), E Sheringham.

LEEDS UNITED (3-5-2): N Martyn — L Radebe, R Molenaar, G Halle — G Kelly, L Sharpe, I Rush, L Bowyer, A Dorigo — A Yeboah (sub: I Harte, 72), B Deane.

Referee: D Gallagher

Rovers too slick for tiring Wimbledon

Blackburn Rovers	3
Wimbledon	1

By a Correspondent

A SEASON that began badly for Blackburn Rovers, then fell away, is threatening to finish with a flourish. After so much effort and polish, Wimbledon's season hinges on the FA Cup semi-final against Chelsea. Joe Kinnear, their manager, will hope that his team's chances of strutting out at Wembley and reaching Europe, via the Cup Winners' Cup, will not be handicapped by wear and tear.

Blackburn, playing attractively and keeping the ball on the greasy Ewood Park pitch rather than above it, ruthlessly exposed Wimbledon's fatigue. It was their ninth game in 29 days and their 42nd of the season. Kevin Gallacher recorded his first hat-trick for Rovers with a clinical scoring touch, the first two goals aided by rare errors by Neil Sullivan, the Wimbledon goalkeeper. He will be hoping that he has purged himself of "butterfingers" in one match and will resume the season free of the curse.

Wimbledon are not the first team to be punished for progress in cup competitions, but Kinnear, promising to field the strongest possible teams leading up to the semi-final on April 13, "out of respect for our opponents", will anxiously monitor his players' fitness levels.

Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager who has masterminded Rovers' recovery since taking charge after their grim start of four points from ten games, believes that six more points will ensure that Roy Hodgson, his successor, a former manager of the Switzerland national side, will inherit a Premiership side when he leaves Internazionale in the summer.

Rovers could not have played more cohesively as a team, relaxing just once to concede a goal to Efan Ekoku. Wimbledon had neither the energy nor the enterprise to bounce back from 2-1, and Gallacher, Le Saux, Pedersen and Wilcox might easily have added to their discomfort.

It was a happy footnote for those Rovers players involved in an embarrassing "scene" in a VIP enclosure during the Cheltenham Festival. Hodgson, who is sent video recordings of Rovers' games, will sense that he is backing a potential winner, with a capable assistant in the long-serving Parkes.

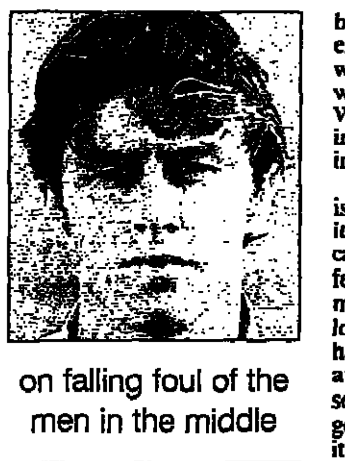
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, H Berg, C Hendry, G Le Saux — T Sherwood, W McKinlay, G Flitcroft, J Wilcox — K Gallacher (sub: G Donis, 87min), P Pedersen (sub: P Warhurst, 76).

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble — O Leonhardsen, R Earle, V Jones, J Goodman (sub: M Harford, 31) — E Ekoku, M Gayle.

Referee: G Poll

Referees err on side of caution

STEVE McMANAMAN



on falling foul of the men in the middle

I don't want to appear to be jumping on a bandwagon that has picked up pace recently, but I found myself in a ridiculous situation last week that has got me thinking that the time has come to look at referees. This is not some sort of personal criticism; I am not suggesting that referees are not doing their jobs properly. Rather, it is the issue of how they are encouraged to interpret the rules of the game that concerns me.

Against Newcastle United last Monday, I was booked when I pushed David Batty after he seemed to tread on me a little carelessly, shall we say. It was only an innocent push. I was just trying to take a free kick quickly, but I was shown a yellow card.

Two days later I picked up the newspapers to find that, if the caution was a three-point offence — the standard — I would be banned for the important visit to Arsenal after reaching the 21-point disciplinary barrier. It is almost amusing now, but then it was a real shock. I had no idea that I was even remotely close to the magic number. I went into work and asked the manager if I was banned, and he just said: "What for?"

It was a great surprise because it has never happened to me before. In the end, David Elleray, the referee, decided that it was only a two-point offence and so I am still one point away from being banned. I was lucky, because two-point bookings are usually for having your hair out of place, or something like that.

I was lucky to get a less serious caution, but distinctly unlucky to be in the position in the first place. I am not trying to portray myself as an angel; I am not saying I have never done anything wrong; but I do feel I am frequently more sinned against than sinner on the pitch.

People have asked me what I have got all these bookings for — six or seven, I believe — and I just say it is for being hoofed all over the pitch. The serious point is, though, that I could have missed a game vital to Liverpool's season, a match that takes on even more significance now after our disappointing result at Nottingham Forest.

Yet at least two of the bookings were harsh in the extreme. Against Chelsea, I was booked for getting in the way of a Dennis Wise foul. What appears to be happening is that referees are becoming far stricter.

This is where I think there is room for a review, because it seems bizarre to me that I can be Liverpool's worst offender. I am not exactly a hard man and it gets more ridiculous, because Robbie Fowler has the next most bookings after me. It is coming to something when forwards are getting so many cautions, but it seems that referees are working to the letter of the law.

In fairness, we don't know the pressures they are under from their superiors and it does seem that they are obliged to be so strict, but everyone will benefit if they could be allowed to use a little more common sense. Players love referees who will have a laugh and joke; referees you can take the mickey out of and who do it back — but still book a bad tackle. What we are not so keen on are those referees who say nothing and run away when you try to talk to them.

Referees must become aware of the tensions, the pressures that surround a big game, such as ours against Newcastle. In a game like that, you are bound to get incidents that seem to spring up out of nothing, like the one involving Batty and me. It is just an emotional response, because tensions run so high on the pitch. Afterwards, everything is fine.

The game against Newcastle was so hyped up because of our 4-3 victory over them last year. The atmosphere, the excitement levels, the nervouse tension of the crowd, it all gets to the players. You sometimes hear of players "choking" in big matches, and that is really what it is — the atmosphere getting to them.

Batty was just a little worked up because his side were losing 3-0, and you expect players to react like that in such a situation, they wouldn't be human otherwise. It's not a problem, and we will probably have a laugh about it the next time we meet.

Even with situations like the one involving Ian Wright and Peter Schmeichel, a lot of it is merely tension generated by important matches. Both players are intense, desperate to succeed and conflicts can happen. Off the pitch, though, generally everything is forgotten. That is why I think referees should be encouraged to exercise a bit more common sense. After all, spectators are there to see a game of football.

Credit to West Ham as Villa's form fades

Aston Villa	0
West Ham United	0

By Nick Szczepanik

IF WEST HAM are relegated, it is hard to imagine that the supporters of other FA Carling Premiership clubs will miss them. Their 14 away matches have yielded a paltry 24 goals, the lowest aggregate in the division, and that total, of which they have contributed only seven, seldom looked likely to increase on Saturday.

At Upton Park, it is another matter, as seven goals scored and five conceded in their past two home matches suggest, but Harry Redknapp, the manager, is unable to explain what goes wrong on the foreign fields.

"We didn't play any different today to the way I play at home," he said. "In fact, I played an out-and-out left winger — Stan Lazaridis is not a left back of any sort — and we had no defensive midfield players."

In fairness to West Ham, they emerged with the greater credit from a dismal game. A cross by Lazaridis set up John Hartson's low shot ten minutes before half-time, blocked instinctively by Bosnich, which was to prove the closest that either side came to breaking the deadlock, although Bosnich had to be alert in the second half to prevent Kitson from scoring from Hartson's through pass. "The first was a great save by Bosnich," Redknapp said.

Villa are playing poorly, and looked a pale shadow of the team that, last season, finished fourth in the Premiership, reached an FA Cup semi-final and won the Coca-Cola Cup. Brian Little, the manager, however, preferred not to dwell on past glories. "We are now a top six team, whether we played well or not, and have been all season," he said. "I would have taken that 18 months ago. My next role is to try to create a team that shouldn't be out of the top three."

The West Ham defence allowed Villa only one chance, but Hendrie's effort was blocked by the excellent Julian Dicks. Excellent, that is, apart from a booking for dissent that will rule him out of a home match against Middlesbrough, which is beginning to look highly significant.

Redknapp met the prospect of losing such an influential performer for such a vital game with a fatalistic shrug. "That's Dicksy for you," he said. "He contests every tackle — and every decision."

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, D Hughes — F Nelson, A Townsend, I Taylor, M Draper (sub: L Hendrie, 71min), A Wright — D Yorke, J Joachim (sub: T Johnson, 75).

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): L Miklosko — S Potts, S Bilic, J Dicks — T Breacker, F Lampard (sub: R Ferdinand, 31), J Moncur, I Bishop, S Lazaridis — J Hartson, P Kitson.

Referee: D Elleray.

هكذا من الاطلاع

Tempers boil over as frustrated Celtic lose grip on cherished championship record

Rangers primed to celebrate nine in a row

Celtic	0
Rangers	1

By Kevin McCarra

IN ERROR and anger, a championship was decided. The cantankerousness of this Old Firm match will not prevent Rangers from honouring the day on which they surely grasped a ninth successive Bell's Scottish League premier division title. Their joy will also take the form of a celebration of their own durability.

Richard Gough, who has been burdened with a calf injury, compelled himself to survive for 63 essential minutes, but the captain had to leave his side to cope by themselves with a passage in which they were reduced to ten men. On his return to Rangers, Mark Hateley was sent off, in the 67th minute, after becoming involved in an altercation with Kerr.

Parity was restored nine minutes from the end, however, when Mackay, the Celtic central defender, was shown the red card after committing a second bookable offence, by felling Laudrup. The make-up of these sides was prone to subtraction, but the nature of the match never altered.

Rangers deserved this victory, just as they merit the championship that, with an eight-point advantage to sustain them over six remaining fixtures, they are virtually certain to collect. Celtic have, for the first time, lost all four of premier division fixtures of a season to their rivals. As so often, Walter Smith's side was the clear expression of a careful plan. The strategy may have been simple, but it was also sturdy.

Celtic, although they were to hit the crossbar through Di Canio, fumbled unavailingly for the form shown in the Tennents Scottish Cup defeat of Rangers ten days ago and were never permitted to examine the credentials of Goram's replacement, Dibble. The English goalkeeper was not forced to make a single save and enjoyed the protection of a midfield that, with the inclusion of Moore, was geared to stifle and block.

Tommy Burns's side, who depend on a nimble, one-touch style, looked as cramped as men in a crowded lift. The frustrations bred ugliness and, at the end, Di Canio had to be restrained from embarking on a fight with Ferguson. It was the last indignity for Celtic that they could not even accept with grace the fact that Rangers will now match their record of nine consecutive championships.

LEADERS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	30	22	5	3	72	26	71
Celtic	30	20	3	7	66	28	63
Dundee Utd	30	15	8	7	42	25	53

Despite installing all necessary precautions, Rangers had not come purely to flaunt a security system. They manufactured the few opportunities of the afternoon and, on the break, engineered the flowing play that always eluded Celtic. The single goal rested on a mistake, but Durrant showed an architect's imagination in building upon it.

While the midfield player is rarely required, he has never been a journeyman and only a terrible knee injury has mangled what should have been a majestic career. Even so, he still has much to cherish. Durrant's few appearances are the limited edition of luxury goods. He may not have been included in the side since November 2, but his imagination had not corroded through disuse.

In the 44th minute, Albertz flighted a long free kick down the left that dropped over Annoni and Laudrup. Stubbs moved in to deal with it, but *glanced his header to the side* of Kerr, who had come to collect. Durrant, with his darting intelligence, was ruthless in his reactions, instantly stretching to lift the ball into the goalmouth. Mackay and Laudrup chased in frantically, with the Dane prodding home into the unattended net.

Celtic will sigh over the Di Canio volley *that was crashed against the bar in the fortieth* minute, when the game was goalless. Their next opportunity, though, came only in the final *moments* as Annoni glanced past the post.

The second half was notable principally for Kerr's saves from Laudrup and Albertz and for Hateley's dismissal. Aggression had been his sole contribution and it also brought an early conclusion to his involvement. He and Kerr quarrelled over the award of a free kick and the Rangers *player made slight contact on* the goalkeepr with a butt. The Celtic player was booked and Hateley dismissed.

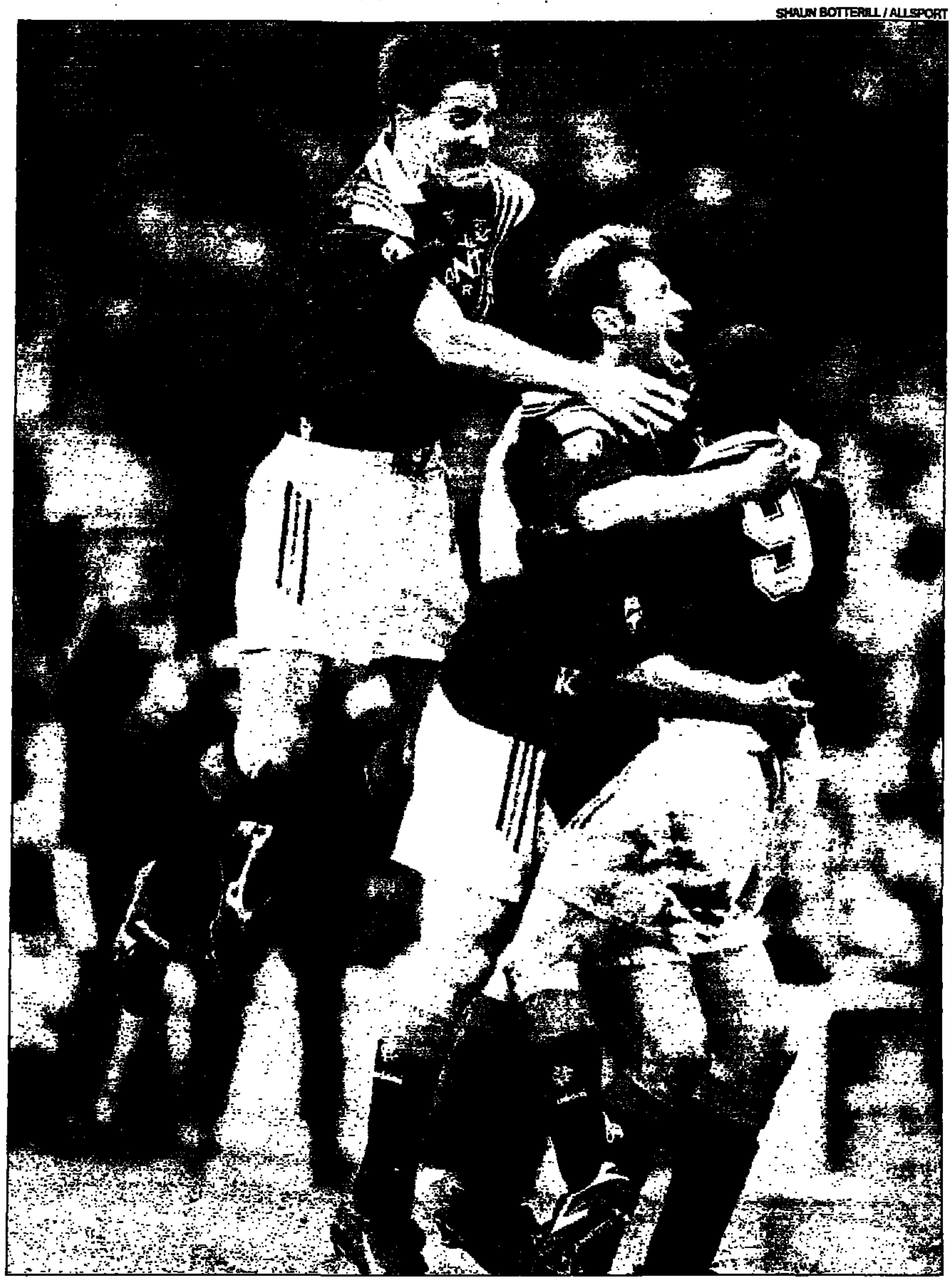
Di Canio is now liable to be the subject of a report by Hugh Dallas, the referee, and probably faces a suspension. Celtic, though, have lost far more than the services of a key man. "We are in a good position," Smith said circumspectly, knowing that frenzied jubilation could be left in the experienced hands of the Rangers supporters.

CELTIC (3-5-2): S Kerr — E Annoni, A Stubbs (sub: S Donnelly, 63min), M Mackay — J McNamara, P Grant (sub. D Hannah, 89), P McStay, P O'Donnell, T McKinlay — J Cadete, P Di Canio.

RANGERS (3-5-2). A Dibble — A McLaren, R Gough (sub: C Miller, 63), J Bjorklund — A Cleland, C Moore, I Ferguson, I Durrant (sub: A McCoist, 85), J Albertz — M Hateley, B Laudrup.

Referee: H Dallas.

SHAUN BOTTERILL / ALLSPORT



Durrant is mobbed by his delighted team-mates after creating Rangers' winner at Celtic Park yesterday

Newcastle already in mourning for another title missed

Newcastle United	4
Coventry City	0

By Keith Pike

HALF an hour before kick-off, an empty St James' Park echoed to the sound of another title challenge slipped away, and within five minutes of the final whistle the stadium was *deserted again, while in the* pubs the talk passed quickly from what was — an emphatic victory — to what might have been. It will take a while yet for the Anfield scars to heal, and in Newcastle they seem to have accepted that, by the time they have, somebody else will have walked off with the prize they crave most — again.

There was enough appealing football played against Coventry City on Saturday temporarily to placate the masses, enough proficient defending and high-tempo movement in midfield for Kenny Dalglish to acclaim "the most professional performance since I have been here", which now amounts to 63 days (played ten, won five, lost four). Yet it was largely conducted in an atmosphere that could have been cut with a stick of celery, and without one chant in recognition of the manager. If mistrust is measured in muted support, Dalglish has a rather large PR job on his hands.

Dalglish may yet prove to be an inspired choice as Kevin Keegan's successor — and he will endear himself to the Toon Army no end if Newcastle can overturn a 1-0 Uefa Cup deficit against AS Monaco in France tomorrow. However, the events of the past seven days can only have confirmed to him what many already suspected: that Newcastle are too good for the makeweights of the FA Carling Premiership, one notch short of the class that turns pretenders into champions.

Would that they could play Coventry every week; would that they could stop losing the matches that really matter (especially 4-3, in injury time, to Liverpool). Over the years Coventry have have endured regular wallopings in this fixture, and once Watson, released by Asprilla's deft backheel, had given Newcastle a twelfth-minute lead, only the margin of their victory was in doubt. Four was fair enough. Coventry could be thankful that Shearer and Ferdinand were not available to turn a stroll into a rout.

Asprilla, like Dalglish, has some convincing to do, for Newcastle supporters do not need reminding that, when he arrived on Tyneside 13 months ago, their team led Manchester United by 12 points. His impact on this game, though, was immense, his range of tricks altogether too much for Coventry's well-manned but vulnerable defence.

Having laid on the opener, *Asprilla's superbly executed* pass on the run from the right flank invited Lee to double the score just before half-time. Asprilla then induced the tackle that led to the dismissal of Borrows midway through the second half, and he won the penalty from which Beardsley made it 3-0.

Quite why Dublin, the perpetrator, was allowed to remain on the field only Gerald Ashby can answer. As professional fouls go, it was far more clear-cut than Borrows's offence, yet was not even deemed worthy of a yellow card by a referee who had a dismal afternoon.

Asprilla, meanwhile, was being loaded on to a stretcher, his ankle badly bruised. For a maverick who was thought likely to be the first casualty of Dalglish's more ordered regime, he has suddenly become their least dispensable asset, and Dalglish is hopeful that he will have recovered in time to face Monaco.

Asprilla's departure could not spare Coventry from more punishment as Beardsley and Barton sliced through the remnants of their defence to set up Elliott for Newcastle's fourth. Seven league matches without a win, their performance stank of relegation. "If we play like that for the rest of the season, we will go down," Gordon Strachan, the manager said.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-1-1): S Hislop — S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert, R Elliott — W Barton, R Lee (sub L Clark, 77min), D Batty, D Ginola (sub J Crawford, 81) — P Beardsley — F Asprilla (sub K Gillespie, 77).

COVENTRY CITY (3-4-1-2) S Ogrizovic — D Dublin, G Breen, A Evtushok (sub: B Borrows, 46) — R Shaw, K Richardson (sub W Boland, 84), G McAllister, M Hall — P Telfer — E Jess, D Huckerby (sub P Ndlovu, 81).

Referee: G Ashby

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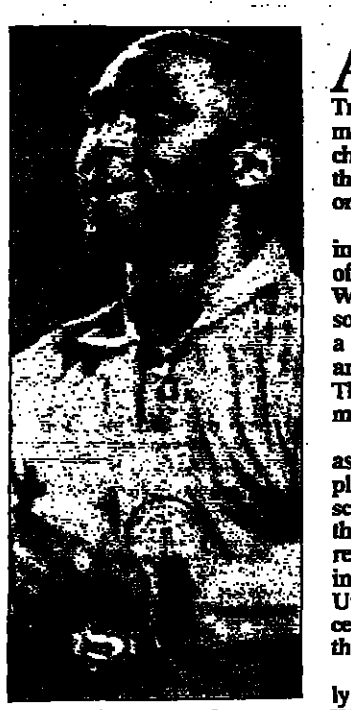
Trouble at Bristol 33

United's rich inconsistency provides food for thought

Mark Hodkinson sees a baffling mix

in the 2-0 defeat of Sheffield Wednesday



Cole: instinctive

A statue of Sir Matt Busby stares out benignly at the entrance to Old Trafford. Before him is a movable feast. People clutch chips or hamburgers and there is even a pig revolving on a spit at one of the stalls.

Supporters shuffle by, food in one hand, a carrier bag full of souvenirs in the other. When they stop moving, someone invariably produces a video-camera. They smile and raise an upturned thumb. The moment will be replayed many times.

If, months later, someone asks who Manchester United played on the day, or the score, the likelihood is that the supporter will struggle to remember. These days the institution of Manchester United is often more of a celebration than the football they that produce.

Although they won relatively easily against Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday, this performance was typical of a season that has seen United score more than two goals on only four occasions at home in the FA Carling Premiership. Only Sunderland, who were beaten 5-0 in December, can be said to have gone the way of the pig and suffered a roasting at Old Trafford.

At times United's play was exhilarating, with players moving to and fro like flickering shadows, but then it diffused and ambitious moves dissolved amid mistimed and misplaced passes. In culinary terms, Manchester United embraced the dash and flamboyance of *nouvelle cuisine* but spoilt the effect by providing a side dish of chips.

The game started in lively fashion, with Sheffield Wednesday matching United's enterprise. Humphreys shuffled through the United defence and played a perfect pass to Hirst. He swiped at the ball and it barely moved forwards when it should have been thumped into the United net. "I thought Hirst would score: he has a good record against us," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said.

Giggs then fed Cantona and he delicately placed the ball through a packed penalty area into the path of Cole. It was the consummate pass for Cole, who is a better player when he is impelled to trust instinct and speed of thought. The ball was in the net before Wednesday had even contemplated a tackle. Cole's celebrations were excitable and profuse and may have contributed to a thigh strain that saw him substituted minutes later.

Carbone, replete in green boots, danced through the midfield with a lightness of touch that suggested he might have been wearing carpet slippers. However, his vision and expertise were not equalled by his colleagues and he was often forced to double back and look for support.

Pressman made several saves before United reinforced their dominance with a second goal. Cantona skilfully allowed the ball to roll down his ankle and played it to Solskjaer, who unselfishly passed to Poborsky. He drilled the ball into the roof of the net.

Wednesday, playing their third game in six days, battled well and were clearly concerned about maintaining their respectability.

Yet Cantona hit a post with a fierce shot and Giggs shot wide after he had raced through the centre of the penalty area. United dominated the remainder to the match without finding the incisive edge that won them such acclaim after their demolition of FC Porto. Giggs was particularly profligate. While he remains a thrilling player on the ball, his dividend of three league goals this season illustrates perhaps the only flaw in his game.

David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, said: "We have no complaints. The scoreline was fair. I thought at one point that it was going to be a lot worse. I kept looking at my watch wishing we were back on the coach going home."

It was apparent afterwards that the European Cup quarter-final, second leg this week was occupying the thoughts of Ferguson.

He was happy simply to have negotiated a potentially hazardous league match against an improving Wednesday side.

"We did well today on concentrating on what we had to do," Ferguson said. "We knew that one silly performance could be costly and we did not want to slip up. We had the composure to keep the ball and be sensible."

The victory consolidates United's position at the top and, in a season in which no Premiership team has shown consistency of flair and ruthlessness, their running buffet of sporadic brilliance may be as good as it gets.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-1-2) P Schmeichel — G Neville, D May, G Pallister, D Irwin — D Beckham, N Butt, R Giggs — E Cantona — A Cole (sub K Poborsky, 23min), O G Solskjaer (sub P Scholes, 83).

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (3-5-1-1) K Pressman — I Nolan, D Walker, D Stefanovic — S Nicol (sub: A Booth, 63), G Whittingham, P Atherton, R Humphreys (sub: O Trustfull, 83), R Blinker (sub: L Briscoe, 63) — B Carbone — D Hirst.

Referee: P Durkin.

Everton can breathe easy

Everton	1
Derby County	0

By David Maddock

JOE ROYLE, the Everton manager, has the appearance of a favourite uncle: red-faced and cuddly, with a string of reassuring quips. That he can still pull off such an act after a game like this is credit his composure. There was little hint, outwardly, of the pressure that he described as "bursting out of *Goodison* Park at the moment".

Only Royle's voice betrayed him as he reflected on an important victory, the faint flutter at the end of his conversation revealing a marked sense of relief. Massive relief, in fact, because this victory has all but extinguished the possiblity of relegation. They could still go down, of course, but only if unmitigated, wide-screen disaster were to strike.

For Royle, it means an opportunity to address the panic of recent weeks, a chance to plug the holes that have appeared so close to the waterline. Many judges felt that the appalling display against Arsenal, two weeks ago, had signalled the end of his career as manager.

It was a wrong assumption, and now he at least has the time to bring in a few players, to perhaps shape a side over the remaining matches of the season that will offer real promise.

He knows it. "You could feel the tension building around this place, and that win has really taken the pressure off us," he said. "It means we can enter the transfer market on our own terms. We can buy players we really need rather than going out to get stopgaps."

Royle's immediate response will be an attempt to lure Trevor Sinclair away from Queens Park Rangers in a bid *to restore* balance to the right side of the team. In his programme notes, Royle also hinted at even bigger fish to be fried. "I can certainly say that some of the names we have looked at would open people's eyes," he said.

He will have to close a deal soon, because victory cannot disguise the fact that the present squad will never disturb Manchester United or Liverpool. Against an admittedly desperate Derby County rearguard, they simply flung long balls forward.

Credit, then, to their perseverance, because the tactic finally worked in the 78th minute. Another hump into the box, another nod down by Duncan Ferguson and Dave Watson provided a captain's inspiration by firing home.

"We were very disappointed at the end of it because, even though they had most of the ball, they were just lumping it forward, and our attacking situations were more dangerous," Jim Smith, the Derby manager, said.

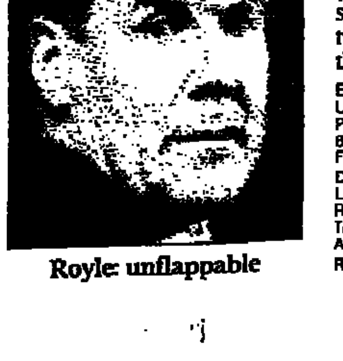
He had a point, but his argument was undermined by the performance of Aljosa Asanovic, his Croatia international midfield player, who, barely minutes into the match, appeared to have given up.

With Derby now sucked into the relegation mire after this defeat, Smith said: "We are looking at 39 points really, and we have got five home games left, so that must be our saviour. We have to get the two wins we require from those home games."

EVERTON (3-4-1-2). N Southall — D Unsworth, D Watson, C Short — E Barrett, J Parkinson, C Thomsen (sub M Hottiger, 80min), T Phelan — N Barmby — D Ferguson, M Branch (sub G Stuart, 45)

DERBY COUNTY (3-3-2-1-1) M Taylor — J Laursen, P McGrath (sub M Carbon, 89), G Rowett — L Carsley (sub P Simpson, 85), P Trollope, C Powell — C Dailly, D Powell — A Asanovic — A Ward.

Referee: G Barber.



Royle: unflappable

Vieira goes in the dock over clash

ARSÈNE WENGER, the Arsenal manager, is to study a video recording of an incident involving Patrick Vieira, his French midfield player, and Matthew Le Tissier, the Southampton captain, during the second half of Arsenal's 2-0 win at The Dell on Saturday (Russell Kempson writes).

Vieira appeared to strike Le Tissier, but escaped with only a booking from Jeff Winter, the referee. "I didn't really see what happened, but, if Patrick has done something wrong, then I will take the matter further," Wenger said.

Le Tissier played down the clash. "Vieira caught me a bit late and I flung my arm out and caught him on the side of the head," he said. "He then reacted by shoving his shoulder at me. That's all it was."

Vieira's caution is likely to take him over the 33-point disciplinary mark, leading to his second two-match suspension of the season during the FA Carling Premiership run-in.

Wenger is still looking to strengthen his squad before the transfer deadline on March 27 and has invited Alexander Manninger, 19, the Austria Under-21 and Casino Graz goalkeeper, for a two-day trial at Highbury this week.

Brazilians warm to task

Leicester City	1
Middlesbrough	3

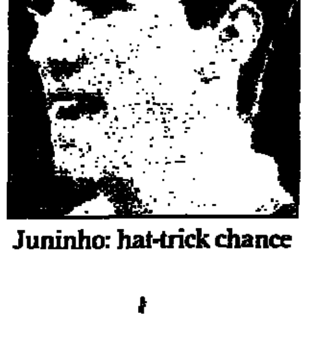
By Pat Gibson

LIKE flowers that bloom in the spring may be an appropriate analogy when judgment is passed on Middlesbrough, still bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, but already through to the Coca-Cola Cup final and with only Chesterfield to beat to reach the FA Cup final.

Throughout the winter, their supporters have clung to the belief that all would be well once the boys from Brazil felt the sun on their backs. There was every reason to suspect they may be right from the way that they demolished Leicester City in this dress rehearsal for their first Wembley date, a fortnight on Sunday. If Juninho and Emerson can play as they did in a relegation dog-fight in the confines of Filbert Street, Leicester must be alarmed at what they could do on the big stage.

The other sides in the bottom half of the Premiership also should be alarmed. This victory enabled Middlesbrough to make up significant ground and, with three home games coming up, they could soon be out of the bottom three even without a successful appeal against the deduction of three points for failing to fulfil their fixture against Blackburn Rovers. Middlesbrough were missing seven first-team players through injury on Saturday and several more were suffering from a virus. Of those, only Festa, the Italian defender, pulled out, and, although one or two were sick at half-time, they were not as sick as Leicester.

By then Middlesbrough had scored three goals and might have had seven, such was the ease with which Juninho and Emerson scythed through the Leicester defence once Blackmore had been allowed the time and space to beat Poole from 25 yards in the ninth minute. Leicester were without Keller, Walsh and Heskey and were feeling the effects of their two-hour slog against Wimbledon on Tuesday night — but Middlesbrough had endured their own ordeal against Stockport County the next evening, and some of their football was simply breathtaking.



Juninho: hat-trick chance

Juninho should have had a hat-trick, but had to settle for one goal, in the 26th minute, when Emerson's wonderful pass enabled him to race clear and skip past Poole before putting the ball home. Juninho then set up Beck to score emphatically in the 35th minute.

The rest was academic. Leicester gave themselves a glimmer of hope when Marshall headed in from Grayson's cross two minutes into the second half, and, with Grayson getting closer to Juninho than anyone had done before, Middlesbrough were never quite the same. However, their defence held out comfortably enough.

Nobody was more relieved than Schwarzer, their impressive Australian goalkeeper recently signed from Bradford City. He was with Kaiserslautern last season when they won the German Cup but were relegated from the Bundesliga. "People said we were too good to go down," he said, "but we did. I'm just hoping that lightning does not strike twice."

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2) K Poole — J Watts, M Elliott, S Prior, S Grayson, N Lennon, G Parker, M Izzet, S Guppy — I Marshall, S Claridge (sub M Robins, 80min)

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-3-2-1). M Schwarzer — N Cox, N Pearson, S Vickers, C Fleming — C Hignett, Emerson (sub A Moore, 90), C Blackmore — Juninho, M Beck — F Ravanelli

Referee: S Lodge

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 WEST HAM (0) 0
35,992

Aston Villa: M Bosnich, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, D Hughes, G Southgate, A Townsend, I Taylor, M Draper (sub: L Hendrie, 71min), D Yorke, J Joachim (sub: T Johnson, 75min).
West Ham United: L Miklosko, T Breacker, J Dicks, S Potts, S Bilic, J Moncur, I Bishop, F Lampard (sub: R Ferdinand 31min), P Kitson, J Hartson, S Lazaridis.
Booked: Lazaridis, Lampard, Dicks, Moncur.
Referee: D Elleray

BLACKBURN (2) 3 WIMBLEDON (1) 1
Gallacher 7, 26, 58
Ekoku 39
23,333

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, G Le Saux, K Gallacher (sub: G Donis 87min), J Wilcox, P Pedersen (sub: P Warhurst, 76min), W McKinlay, H Berg, G Flitcroft.
Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones, D Blackwell, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, E Ekoku, M Gayle, C Perry, J Goodman (sub: M Harford, 31min).
Booked: Blackwell, Ekoku. Referee: G Poll

EVERTON (0) 1 DERBY (0) 0
Watson 79
32,140

Everton: N Southall, E Barrett, D Watson, D Unsworth, C Short, T Phelan, C Thomsen (sub: M Hottiger, 60min), J Parkinson, N Barmby, M Branch (sub: G Stuart, 46min), D Ferguson.
Booked: Short, Watson.
Derby County: M Taylor, G Rowett, C Powell, D Powell, A Asanovic, A Ward, P Trollope, J Laursen, L Carsley (sub: P Simpson, 85min), C Daily, P McGrath (sub: M Carbon, 83min).
Booked: Daily. Referee: G Barber

LEICESTER (0) 1 MIDDLESBRO (3) 3
Marshall 47
Blackmore 9
Juninho 27
Beck 36
20,561

Leicester City: K Poole, S Grayson, S Guppy, J Watts, M Elliott, S Prior, M Izzet, N Lennon, G Parker, S Claridge (sub: M Robins, 81min), I Marshall.
Middlesbrough: M Schwarzer, N Cox, S Vickers, N Pearson, Emerson (sub: A Moore, 90min), M Beck, Juninho, F Ravanelli, C Fleming, C Blackmore, C Hignett.
Booked: Cox. Referee: S Lodge

MAN UTD (1) 2 SHEFF WED (0) 0
Cole 19
Poborsky 51
55,267

Manchester United: P Schmeichel, G Neville, D Irwin, D May, G Pallister, E Cantona, N Butt, A Cole (sub: K Poborsky, 23min), D Beckham, R Giggs, O G Solskjaer (sub: P Scholes, 83min).
Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, D Walker, G Whittingham, B Carbone, D Hirst, R Blinker (sub: L Briscoe, 63min), S Nicol (sub: A Booth, 63min), D Stefanovic, R Humphreys (sub: O Trustfull, 83min).
Referee: P Durkin

NEWCASTLE (2) 4 COVENTRY (0) 0
Watson 12
Lee 45
Beardsley 76 (pen)
Elliott 87
36,571

Sent off: B Borrows (Coventry) 71

Newcastle United: S Hislop, S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert, R Elliott, D Batty, W Barton, R Lee (sub: L Clark, 77min), D Ginola (sub: J Crawford, 80min), P Beardsley, F Asprilla (sub: K Gillespie 77min).
Booked: Albert, Beardsley.
Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, D Dublin, G Breen, M Hall, K Richardson (sub: W Boland, 83min), G McAllister, A Evtushok (sub: B Borrows, 46min), P Telfer, E Jess, D Huckerby (sub: P Ndlovu, 80min).
Booked: Telfer, Shaw, Dublin.
Referee: G Ashby

NOTTM F (1) 1 LIVERPOOL (1) 1
Woan 30
Fowler 4
29,181

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle (sub: N Clough, 25min), S Pearce, S Chettle, D Phillips, S Gemmill, D Saunders, I Woan, P van Hooijdonk, N Jerkan, A I Haaland.
Liverpool: D James, D Matteo, S Bjornebye, M Wright, B T Kvarme, J McAteer (sub: S Harkness, 52min), S McManaman, P Berger (sub: S Collymore, 75min), R Fowler, J Barnes, J Redknapp.
Booked: Wright, Kvarme.
Referee: R Dilkes

SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0 ARSENAL (1) 2
15,144
Hughes 41
Shaw 72

Southampton: M Taylor, A Neilson (sub: E Berkovic, 52min), R Dryden, C Lundekvam (sub: K Monkou, 53min), S Charlton, R Slater, J Magilton, N Maddison, M Le Tissier, M Evans, E Ostenstad.
Booked: Slater, Monkou.
Arsenal: L Harper, M Keown, N Winterburn, A Adams, S Marshall, R Parlour, D Platt, P Vieira, D Bergkamp, P Shaw (sub: R Garde, 73min), S Hughes.
Booked: Parlour, Vieira, Winterburn.
Referee: J T Winter

TOTTENHAM (1) 1 LEEDS (0) 0
Anderton 26
33,040

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, D Austin, C Calderwood, D Anderton, E Sheringham, J Dozzell, J Scales, S Iversen (sub: R Rosenthal, 82min), S Campbell, A Sinton, S Carr.
Booked: Anderton.
Leeds United: N Martyn, L Radebe, L Sharpe, I Rush, B Deane, L Bowyer, G Halle, A Yeboah (sub: I Harte, 73min), R Molenaar, G Kelly, A Dorigo.
Booked: Molenaar, Dorigo.
Referee: D Gallagher.

Yesterday

CHELSEA (2) 6 SUNDERLAND (0) 2
Zola 38
Sinclair 43
Petrescu 51
Hughes 78, 90
Di Matteo 90
Stewart 58
Rae 60
24,027

Chelsea: F Grodas, D Petrescu, S Clarke, A Myers (sub: P Parker, 66min), M Hughes, D Wise, C Burley, R Di Matteo, S Minto, F Sinclair, G Zola (sub: G Vialli, 84min).
Booked: Wise, M Hughes.
Sunderland: L Perez, G Hall (sub: A Rae, 46min), A Melville, R Ord, D Kubicki, D Kelly, K Ball, P Bracewell, M Gray, J Mullin (sub: P Stewart, 46min), M Bridges (sub: L Howey, 79min).
Booked: Mullin, Melville, Rae, Kelly.
Referee: G Willard.

THIS WEEK'S FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated * denotes all-ticket

TODAY

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Hednesford v Kidderminster (7.45): Northwich v Halifax (7.45): Stevenage v Altrincham (7.45).

TOMORROW

UEFA CUP: Quarter-finals, second leg: AS Monaco (1) v Newcastle (0). Brondby (1) v Tenerife (0). Internazionale (1) v Anderlecht (1) (7.45). Valencia (0) v Schalke 04 (2) (9.0).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Wimbledon v West Ham (7.45).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Port Vale (7.45); Ipswich v Sheffield United (7.45). Oldham v Charlton (7.45); Oxford United v Grimsby (7.45). Stoke v Wolverhampton (7.45): Tranmere v Manchester City (7.45). **Second division:** Bristol City v Rotherham (7.45). Crewe v Millwall, Preston v Wrexham (7.45): Walsall v Blackpool (7.45): Watford v Bristol Rovers (7.45). **Third division:** Cardiff v Scarborough.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Farnborough v Welling (7.45): Rushden and Diamonds v Kettering (7.45).

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Final, first leg: Carlisle v Stockport (7.45). **Southern section: Final, second leg:** Colchester (0) v Peterborough (2) (7.45).

WEDNESDAY

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-finals, second leg: Atletico Madrid (1) v Ajax (1); Auxerre (1) v Borussia Dortmund (3); FC Porto (0) v Manchester United (4). Juventus (1) v Rosenborg (1).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Chelsea v Southampton (7.45); Leicester v Tottenham (7.45), Middlesbrough v Blackburn (7.45).

THURSDAY

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-finals, second leg: AEK Athens (0) v Paris Saint-Germain (0) (7.15); AIK Solna (1) v Barcelona (3), Fiorentina (2) v Benfica (0) (7.45); Liverpool (1) v SK Brann (1).

FRIDAY

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Luton v Brentford (7.45). **Third division:** Colchester v Rochdale (7.45); Doncaster v Hereford.

SATURDAY

Kick-off 3.0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Blackburn v Aston Villa; Coventry v West Ham; Derby v Tottenham; Everton v Manchester United; Middlesbrough v Chelsea; Sheffield Wednesday v Leeds; Southampton v Leicester; Sunderland v Nottingham Forest.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Sheffield United; Bradford v Wolverhampton; Grimsby v Tranmere; Huddersfield v Barnsley; Manchester City v Stoke; Norwich v Bolton; Port Vale v Swindon; Queens Park Rangers v Portsmouth; Reading v Ipswich; Southend v Oxford United; West Bromwich v Charlton. **Second division:** Blackpool v Bristol City; Bournemouth v York; Bury v Chesterfield; Crewe v Peterborough; Gillingham v Wycombe; Millwall v Watford; Notts County v Stockport; Plymouth v Wrexham; Shrewsbury v Rotherham; Walsall v Burnley. **Third division:** Brighton v Cardiff; Cambridge United v Chester; Fulham v Hartlepool; Hull v Carlisle; Leyton Orient v Lincoln; Mansfield v Northampton; Scarborough v Exeter; Swansea v Darlington; Torquay v Scunthorpe; Wigan v Barnet.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bromsgrove v Hayes; Farnborough v Northwich; Hednesford v Kettering; Macclesfield v Gateshead; Morecambe v Dover; Rushden & Diamonds v Telford; Slough v Southport; Stevenage v Kidderminster; Welling v Altrincham.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundee United v Raith; Dunfermline v Celtic; Hibernian v Aberdeen; Motherwell v Hearts; Rangers v Kilmarnock. **First division:** Clydebank v Dundee; Falkirk v East Fife; Partick v Greenock Morton; St Johnstone v Stirling; St Mirren v Airdrie. **Second division:** Ayr v Dumbarton; Berwick v Brechin; Clyde v Livingston; Hamilton v Stenhousemuir; Queen of South v Stranraer. **Third division:** Alloa v Queen's Park; Arbroath v Inverness CT; Cowdenbeath v Forfar; Montrose v Albion; Ross County v East Stirling.

SUNDAY

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: * Wimbledon v Newcastle (4.0).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Oldham v Crystal Palace (1.0). **Second division:** Bristol Rovers v Preston (3.0).
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE Cup: Final: Millwall v Everton (at Barnet FC, 2.30).

	HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Man Utd	30	11	3	1	31	11	6	6	3	28	22	60	+26
2 Liverpool	30	9	5	1	34	13	7	3	4	17	12	57	+26
3 Arsenal	31	9	4	2	32	14	7	5	4	19	12	57	+25
4 Newcastle	29	10	2	3	42	17	5	4	5	16	18	51	+23
5 Sheff Wed	30	6	7	1	16	10	6	5	5	23	25	48	+4
6 A Villa	30	9	4	3	22	11	4	4	6	13	16	47	+8
7 Chelsea	29	7	7	1	30	18	5	3	6	20	25	46	+7
8 Wimbledon	28	8	4	2	21	15	6	4	6	19	20	44	+5
9 Leeds	31	7	4	5	14	12	4	3	8	10	20	40	-8
10 Tottenham	29	6	4	6	16	15	5	1	7	19	23	38	-3
11 Leicester	29	6	5	6	18	22	4	4	6	16	19	37	-7
12 Blackburn	29	7	3	4	20	13	1	9	5	12	15	36	+4
13 Everton	30	6	2	6	20	16	3	7	6	17	27	36	-6
14 Derby	30	6	4	4	17	15	1	7	8	14	30	32	-14
15 Sunderland	31	6	5	4	15	14	2	3	11	13	33	32	-19
16 Coventry	31	3	7	5	13	16	3	5	8	13	27	30	-17
17 West Ham	29	6	3	6	20	22	1	5	8	7	17	29	-12
18 Nottm F	31	3	7	6	12	22	3	4	8	14	25	29	-21
19 Southmptn	29	4	5	6	24	20	2	3	9	13	28	26	-11
20 †Middlesbro	28	5	4	5	27	20	2	3	9	13	30	25	-10

†Middlesbrough have been deducted three points

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

C PALACE (2) 2 NORWICH (0) 0
Gordon 30 (pen)
McKenzie 35
17,378

GRIMSBY (1) 1 MAN CITY (1) 1
Appleton 17
Kavelashvili 32
8,732

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 1 PORTSMTH (0) 3
Stewart 35
Igoe 58
Hall 61, 62
16,512
Sent off: D Hillier (Portsmth) 33

IPSWICH (0) 0 BOLTON (1) 1
16,187
McGinlay 26

OLDHAM (1) 3 WOLVRHMPTN (1) 2
Rickers 2, 87
Barlow 55
Bull 24
Roberts 76
9,661
Sent off: S Bull (Wolvrhmptn) 45

PORT VALE (0) 2 CHARLTON (0) 0
Mills 54, 62
5,905

READING (0) 0 BRADFORD (0) 0
8,435

SHEFF UTD (3) 3 OXFORD UTD (1) 1
Whitehouse 11
Fjortoft 35
Walker 43
Gilchrist 40
16,226

SOUTHEND (0) 0 QPR (0) 1
6,747
Rogel 82 (og)

SWINDON (1) 1 STOKE (0) 0
Thorne 26
8,878
Sent off: W Allison (Swindon) 27

TRANMERE (1) 1 BARNSLEY (0) 1
Higgins 36
7,347
Wilkinson 46

Yesterday

WEST BROM (1) 2 BIRMINGHAM (0) 0
Sneekes 16
Hamilton 49
16,125

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (1) 2 PRESTON (1) 1
Clarkson 26, 61
Davey 44
8,017

BRENTFORD (0) 0 BURNLEY (3) 3
6,624
Hoyland 9
Cooke 34
Matthew 45

BURY (2) 3 GILLINGHAM (0) 0
Johnrose 7
Battersby 20
Johnson 90
3,492
Sent off: A Battersby (Bury) 86
N Smith (Gillingham) 77

CHESTRFLD (2) 4 WYCOMBE (2) 2
Howard 2, 85
Hewitt 45
Hanson 54
Stallard 5
Brown 23
4,354

CREWE (0) 0 LUTON (0) 0
4,475

MILLWALL (0) 0 BOURNEMTH (0) 1
8,992
Bailey 78

PETERBORO (0) 0 STOCKPORT (0) 2
4,857
Cavaco 46
Marsden 84

ROTHERHAM (0) 2 NOTTS CO (1) 2
Jean 73
Bowyer 80
Regis 37
Redmile 69
2,605

SHRWSBURY (0) 2 PLYMOUTH (0) 3
Anthrobus 53
Stevens 72
Billy 52, 60
Illman 87

WATFORD (1) 1 WALSALL (0) 0
Mooney 20
7,818

WREXHAM (0) 0 YORK (0) 0
3,874

Yesterday

BRISTOL R (0) 1 BRISTOL CITY (1) 2
Alsop 81
Agostino 31
Goater 72
8,078

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (0) 0 SWANSEA (1) 1
1,881
Ampadu 14

CARLISLE (2) 2 HEREFORD (2) 3
Conway 4
Freestone 16
Foster 17, 38, 51
5,063

DARLINGTON (1) 1 CHESTER (1) 1
Crosby 27
Milner 44
2,348
Sent off: R Davidson (Chester) 77

EXETER (0) 0 SCUNTHRPE (0) 1
3,378
Jones 64

HARTLPOOL (0) 1 ROCHDALE (1) 2
Beech 59
Russell 29
Formby 50
1,448

HULL (1) 3 BRIGHTON (0) 0
Joyce 33, 58
Darby 90
3,373

NORTHMPTN (0) 1 LINCOLN (0) 1
Hunter 90 (pen)
Holmes 65
5,266

SCARBORO (1) 3 TORQUAY (0) 1
Mitchell 35
Bennett 71, 86
Stamps 53
2,257

WIGAN (0) 1 CAMBRIDGE U (0) 1
Jones 72
Taylor 82
3,867

Yesterday

L ORIENT (0) 0 FULHAM (0) 2
7,135
Blake 73 (pen)
Carpenter 88

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Cardiff 0 Doncaster 2, Colchester 2 Mansfield 1

GOALSCORERS

FIRST DIVISION: 28: McGinlay (Bolton) 22: Bull (Wolverhampton) Morley (Reading); Blake (Bolton). 21: Sheron (Stoke) 19: Jemson (Oxford United) 18: Aldridge (Tranmere) 17: Peyton (Huddersfield) 16: Dyer (Crystal Palace) Mendonca (Grimsby) Devlin (Birmingham). Forster (Birmingham, 13 for Brentford); Naylor (Port Vale)

SECOND DIVISION: 23: Thorpe (Luton) 22: Barnes (Burnley) 20: Asaba (Brentford) 19: Stevens (Shrewsbury), Goater (Bristol City) 18: Clarkson (Blackpool, 16 for Scunthorpe) Angell (Stockport): Lightbourne (Walsall)

THIRD DIVISION: 31. Jones (Wigan) 21: Ainsworth (Lincoln). Conroy (Fulham) Baker (Scunthorpe 7 for Torquay) 19: Darby (Hull) 16: Foster (Hereford) Cramb (Doncaster). Devine (Barnet).

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

ABERDEEN (1) 1 DUNDEE UTD (0) 1
Windass 35 (pen)
Kombouare 69 (og)
13,645

HEARTS (0) 1 HIBERNIAN (0) 0
McCann 82
15,136

KILMARNCK (0) 1 MOTHERWLL (0) 0
Wright 77
7,612

RAITH (0) 0 DUNFRLNE (1) 1
5,882
Smith 29
Sent off: A Millen (Raith) 74
S Petrie (Dunfrline) 74

Yesterday

CELTIC (0) 0 RANGERS (1) 1
49,929
Laudrup 45
Sent off: M MacKay (Celtic) 80
M Hateley (Rangers) 66

FIRST DIVISION

AIRDRIE (0) 2 FALKIRK (0) 0
Cooper 53, 75
2,090

CLYDEBANK (0) 4 PARTICK (0) 1
Grady 56, 80
Teale 58
Connell 90
Adams 81
1,178

DUNDEE (0) 0 ST JOHNSTN (0) 0
5,634

ST MIRREN (1) 3 G MORTON (1) 1
Yardley 41 (pen), 89
McGarry 56
Hawke 29
5,024

STIRLING (2) 4 EAST FIFE (0) 1
McCormick 9
Paterson 30
Bone 62
Bennett 64
Ronald 61
895

SECOND DIVISION

BERWICK (0) 1 LIVINGSTON (0) 1
Clegg 80
Callaghan 85
453

BRECHIN (1) 2 CLYDE (1) 1
Christie 30
Conway 49
Conway 28 (og)
337

QUEEN OF SOUTH (0) 1 HAMILTON (0) 0
Bryce 68
1,318

STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1 DUMBARTON (1) 4
Haddow 74
Wilson 21
King 48
Glancy 61
Sharpe 81 (pen)
350

STRANRAER (0) 0 AYR (0) 1
876
Horace 76

THIRD DIVISION

ALBION (1) 2 QUEEN'S PARK (0) 1
Dickson 40
Walker 52
Kennedy 59
547

COWDNBTH (0) 1 ARBROATH (1) 1
Sinclair 68
Reynolds 35
164

EAST STIRLING (0) 0 ALLOA (1) 3
386
Simpson 20
Cowan 73
Irvine 75 (pen)
Sent off: D Watt (East Stirling) 77

FORFAR (5) 5 MONTROSE (1) 3
Honeyman 5
Morgan 24 (pen), 25 (pen)
Mann 44
Roberts 45
Masson 13
McGlashan 72
Smith 76
457

INVERNESS CT (1) 3 ROSS CO (0) 0
Stewart 44, 76
Thomson 74
5,525
Sent off: S Ross (Ross Co) 27

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

ALTRNCHM (0) 1 BATH (3) 3
Hardy 90
Colbourne 14
France 22 (og)
Mehew 24
648

BROMSGROVE (0) 0 RUSHDEN & D (0) 1
1,109
Alford 76

HALIFAX (1) 1 DOVER (2) 3
Stoneman 19
Adams 36, 47
Strouts 41
709
Sent off: P Cox (Halifax) 60

KETTERING (0) 0 TELFORD (1) 1
1,406
Preece 39

MACCLSFLD (1) 3 SOUTHPORT (0) 2
Byrne 30, 90
Askey 84
Price 59 (og)
Horner 75
1,601

MORECAMBE (0) 1 FARNBOROUGH (1) 1
Grimshaw 66
Baker 7
841

NORTHWICH (3) 4 GATESHEAD (0) 2
Walters 28 (pen)
Tait 32
Bishop 37
Stallard 53
Bos 52, 86 (pen)
823

SLOUGH (0) 1 HAYES (0) 3
Smart 48
Williams 63
Roberts 66, 79
1,100
Sent off: A Clement (Slough) 67

STEVENAGE (3) 3 HEDNESFORD (2) 2
Crawshaw 13
Soloman 19
Barrowcliff 33 (pen)
Fitzpatrick 17
O'Connor 32
2,744
Sent off: D Hooper (Stevenage) 35
P Carty (Hednesford) 35

WELLING (0) 0 KIDDRMNSTR (1) 1
781
Olney 3

WOKING (2) 3 STALYBRIDGE (0) 2
Hay 42
Steele 45
Thompson 90
Arnold 68, 86
2,383

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Macclsfld	34	13	3	2	28	10	10	4	3	28	9	73
2 Kiddrmnstr	34	12	3	3	42	16	10	3	3	26	12	72
3 Stevenage	30	12	3	1	41	16	6	3	5	21	18	60
4 Northwich	34	10	4	3	26	14	6	5	6	25	27	57
5 Woking	30	9	4	3	35	20	5	4	5	22	20	50
6 Hednesford	30	8	5	2	20	7	6	3	6	20	22	50
7 Farnborough	32	6	4	4	25	21	7	5	6	21	19	48
8 Morecambe	30	7	3	4	25	16	7	3	6	28	24	48
9 Telford	36	5	6	7	18	27	8	3	7	22	24	48
10 Kettering	33	8	4	5	27	30	4	3	9	16	26	43
11 Southport	30	6	3	6	18	21	6	4	5	19	20	43
12 Slough	35	6	5	7	38	29	5	4	8	17	29	42
13 Stalybridge	34	8	2	7	27	24	3	3	10	16	26	41
14 Dover	33	6	6	4	23	23	4	4	9	20	31	40
15 Gateshead	33	5	5	7	25	24	5	4	7	24	30	39
16 Hayes	34	6	6	6	22	19	3	4	9	17	27	37
17 Halifax	31	7	3	7	29	30	3	4	7	12	27	37
18 Welling	31	6	2	7	18	20	3	6	7	21	28	35
19 Altrnchm	32	5	5	9	18	25	3	7	6	19	31	33
20 Rushden & D	31	3	6	5	17	20	5	2	10	26	30	32
21 Bath	34	6	5	7	17	22	2	5	11	22	48	32
22 Bromsgrove	35	5	3	9	23	27	3	1	14	9	31	28

Fernando Mendes, right, the Porto defender, pushes off the challenge of Pedro Barbosa, of Sporting Lisbon, in their Portuguese League match. Sporting won 2-1, their first victory at the Antas stadium for 20 years. Photograph: Paulo Silva

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Juventus 2 AS Roma 0; AC Milan 2 Fiorentina 0; Parma 1 Internazionale 0; Bologna 2 Napoli 1: Cagliari 2 Vicenza 1; Lazio 2 Atalanta 2; Sampdoria 3 Reggiana 0; Udinese 2 Perugia 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	24	13	9	2	34	15	48
Parma	24	12	7	5	27	19	43
Sampdoria	24	11	6	7	46	34	39
Internazionale	24	9	11	4	33	24	38
Bologna	24	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	33
Roma	24	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	27	[illegible]	[illegible]
Atalanta	24	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	25	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vicenza	24	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	30	34
Lazio	24	9	7	8	23	26	34
Milan	24	9	6	9	32	28	33
Fiorentina	24	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	32	28	31
Udinese	24	8	7	9	32	34	31
Napoli	24	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	31
Piacenza	24	5	11	8	13	28	26
Cagliari	24	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	27	39	[illegible]
Perugia	24	6	5	13	29	44	23
Verona	24	3	6	14	20	50	[illegible]
Reggiana	24	2	11	11	22	33	17

SPANISH LEAGUE: Tenerife 3 Athletic Bilbao 3, Atletico Madrid 1 Valencia 4, Espanyol 0 Deportivo La Coruña 1: Sevilla 2 Sporting Gijon 1: Compostela 1 Valladolid 1 Zaragoza 3 Extremadura 1: Racing Santander 1 Celta Vigo 0: Oviedo 2 Hercules 0 Rayo Vallecano 0 Real Betis 4

GERMAN LEAGUE: Duisburg 2 Karlsruhe 2 St Pauli 2 Hamburg 2; VfB Stuttgart 4 Borussia Dortmund 1 Bayern Munich 3 Schalke 04 0 Bayer Leverkusen 1 Arminia Bielefeld 0; Freiburg 2 1860 Munich 2, FC Hansa Rostock 2 Fortuna Düsseldorf 1: Borussia Mönchengladbach 2 Cologne 1

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Porto 1 Sporting Lisbon 2: Belenenses 2 Setubal 1: Gil Vicente 3 Uniao Leiria 4: Braga 3 Chaves 0, Benfica 3 Salgueiros 4: Guimaraes 3 Estrela Amadora 1; Maritimo 1 Espinho 0 Rio Ave 0 Farense 0 Leça 1 Boavista 3

FRENCH LEAGUE: Le Havre 1 Paris Saint-Germain 0: Bastia 2 Montpellier 2, Marseilles 0 Strasbourg 1: Nice 1 Nantes 2: Auxerre 3 Cannes 1: Lille 2 Nancy 0 Bordeaux 3 Caen 1; Lyon 2 Guingamp 1: Metz 2 Lens 0

DUTCH LEAGUE: Ajax 3 Roda JC Kerkrade 1: NAC Breda 0 Willem II Tilburg 1: Feyenoord 5 RKC Waalwijk 0; PSV Eindhoven 1 Fortuna Sittard 0: NEC Nijmegen 0 Groningen 0: FC Twente Enschede 4 FC Volendam 0; FC Utrecht 2 Alkmaar 0. Vitesse Arnhem 3 De Graafschap 2

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Lommel 1 Standard Liege 0: Mouscron 2 Genk 0, Charleroi 4 Ekeren 1, Lokeren 1 Gent 0, Antwerp 0 Harelbeke 0: Cercle Bruges 0 Lierse 2; Anderlecht 3 Saint Truiden 1: Aalst 1 RWD Molenbeek 1

WORLD CUP: Asian qualifying zone: Group one: Saudi Arabia 2 Taiwan 0: Malaysia 2 Bangladesh 0 (in Kuala Lumpur)

LIBERTADORES CUP: Group five: Millonarios (Col) 1 Peñarol (Uru) 2

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Bolton	38	14	4	1	46	16	8	8	3	35	30	78	(81)
2 Wolvrhmptn	37	8	4	7	23	19	11	4	3	31	19	65	(54)
3 Barnsley	36	10	4	4	33	18	7	8	3	27	25	63	(60)
4 Sheff Utd	37	10	5	4	39	21	7	5	6	25	22	61	(64)
5 C Palace	36	8	4	5	31	16	7	7	5	36	22	56	(67)
6 Norwich	38	8	8	3	25	16	7	2	10	30	42	55	(55)
7 Ipswich	37	9	6	3	33	21	5	7	7	18	24	55	(51)
8 Port Vale	38	6	9	4	29	23	7	6	6	17	20	54	(46)
9 Portsmth	36	8	4	5	22	17	7	4	8	23	23	53	(45)
10 Swindon	38	11	5	3	36	18	4	2	13	15	36	52	(51)
11 Tranmere	36	8	6	4	32	23	6	3	9	17	24	51	(49)
12 Stoke	36	11	2	5	28	19	3	7	8	17	27	51	(45)
13 QPR	38	7	4	8	24	22	6	7	6	24	28	50	(48)
14 West Brom	38	5	7	7	32	28	6	7	6	28	34	47	(60)
15 Reading	38	10	7	2	31	21	2	4	11	16	31	47	(47)
16 Oxford Utd	37	11	3	4	32	18	2	4	13	17	33	46	(49)
17 Man City	36	9	4	5	25	17	4	3	11	20	31	46	(45)
18 Charlton	36	9	6	4	31	25	4	1	12	12	27	46	(43)
19 Birmingham	38	9	4	5	28	17	3	6	9	15	27	46	(41)
20 Huddersfld	38	9	4	6	28	19	2	7	10	16	38	44	(42)
21 Grimsby	36	4	6	9	23	33	4	5	8	25	34	35	(48)
22 Bradford	37	6	5	7	22	29	2	6	11	16	31	35	(38)
23 Oldham	35	4	5	8	19	25	4	5	9	18	23	34	(37)
24 Southend	38	6	7	6	26	26	1	5	13	9	43	33	(35)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Brentford	35	7	10	1	25	17	9	3	5	25	17	61	(50)
2 Luton	35	11	3	3	32	11	5	7	6	26	28	58	(57)
3 Bury	34	12	5	0	30	8	4	5	8	20	28	58	(50)
4 Burnley	37	12	2	5	40	21	4	7	7	18	18	57	(58)
5 Crewe	34	13	2	2	33	10	5	1	11	13	26	57	(46)
6 Millwall	36	12	2	5	26	18	4	7	6	20	25	57	(46)
7 Stockport	33	9	5	3	23	12	6	5	5	24	23	55	(47)
8 Watford	34	8	7	2	19	10	5	9	3	18	16	55	(37)
9 Bristol City	35	10	4	3	35	13	5	5	8	19	27	54	(54)
10 Walsall	35	10	6	2	28	14	5	2	10	14	22	53	(42)
11 Wrexham	33	8	7	1	26	18	4	9	4	12	14	52	(38)
12 Chestrfld	34	8	6	3	21	15	6	4	7	12	15	52	(33)
13 Bournemth	38	7	6	6	19	16	6	4	9	16	21	49	(35)
14 Blackpool	35	8	6	3	30	18	4	6	8	14	20	48	(44)
15 Plymouth	36	6	8	4	17	17	5	4	9	24	33	45	(41)
16 Preston	37	10	4	4	25	17	3	2	14	14	32	45	(39)
17 Gillingham	35	9	3	5	28	20	3	5	10	14	29	44	(42)
18 Shrwsbury	38	7	6	6	25	26	3	6	10	22	35	42	(47)
19 York	36	7	4	7	23	24	4	5	9	15	29	42	(38)
20 Bristol R	36	9	4	5	28	20	1	7	10	9	21	41	(37)
21 Wycombe	36	9	3	6	19	13	1	5	12	17	36	38	(36)
22 Peterboro	37	5	7	7	32	30	3	5	10	15	36	36	(47)
23 Notts Co	36	3	7	7	15	18	2	5	12	11	29	27	(26)
24 Rotherham	35	4	7	7	15	19	0	6	11	12	32	25	(27)

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Carlisle	37	14	2	3	35	17	7	8	3	23	17	73	(58)
2 Wigan	38	14	3	2	48	20	7	5	7	26	28	71	(74)
3 Fulham	37	11	4	4	37	18	10	4	4	28	17	71	(65)
4 Swansea	38	11	3	5	29	14	7	3	9	21	28	60	(50)
5 Chester	38	9	7	3	26	13	6	7	6	17	21	59	(43)
6 Cambs Utd	37	11	2	5	26	20	6	5	8	20	27	58	(46)
7 Cardiff	36	9	1	8	26	22	8	4	6	20	21	56	(46)
8 Northmptn	37	11	4	4	37	15	4	6	8	21	25	55	(58)
9 Scarboro	38	8	8	3	29	22	6	5	8	26	34	55	(55)
10 Colchester	37	9	8	2	32	19	4	8	6	20	22	55	(52)
11 Hull	37	8	7	3	24	18	4	9	6	13	18	52	(37)
12 Scunthrpe	36	9	2	8	31	29	6	4	7	18	21	51	(49)
13 Lincoln	38	8	8	3	28	21	5	3	11	24	38	50	(52)
14 Mansfield	37	6	6	6	17	16	6	7	6	23	23	49	(40)
15 Rochdale	37	8	6	5	27	20	3	9	6	19	26	48	(46)
16 Torquay	38	9	4	6	21	15	3	5	11	17	33	45	(38)
17 Barnet	37	6	8	4	23	16	4	7	8	12	20	45	(35)
18 L Orient	38	8	6	5	20	14	2	6	11	16	31	42	(36)
19 Darlington	37	8	5	5	31	21	2	4	13	22	45	39	(53)
20 Hereford	38	5	5	9	23	23	5	4	10	21	35	39	(44)
21 Exeter	36	6	6	7	20	21	4	3	12	18	33	39	(36)
22 Hartlepool	38	5	6	8	25	29	5	2	12	16	29	38	(41)
23 Doncaster	36	6	5	6	19	17	4	2	13	19	40	37	(38)
24 †Brighton	38	8	6	5	36	27	1	2	16	9	38	33	(45)

†Brighton have been deducted two points

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 3 Boston 1, Alfreton 1 Runcorn 1; Bamber Bridge 1 Marine 0; Bishop Auckland 5 Witton 0: Burton 2 Colwyn Bay 2, Chorley 0 Lancaster 2; Emley 1 Winsford 1, Frickley 0 Guiseley 1; Knowsley 0 Blyth Spartans 1, Leek 0 Hyde 0; Spennymoor 1 Gainsborough 2. Yesterday: Bishop Auckland 1 Boston 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leek Town	33	21	8	4	57	24	71
Barrow	37	20	8	9	61	38	68
Hyde Utd	32	16	13	3	72	35	61
Boston Utd	34	16	11	7	57	38	59
Bishop A'land	32	15	12	5	60	32	57
Marine	34	15	12	7	43	31	57
Guiseley	35	16	9	10	48	40	57
Emley	33	15	10	8	62	43	55
Blyth Spartans	33	16	7	10	50	35	55
Gainsborough	33	14	8	11	51	35	50
Accrington S	35	13	9	13	58	62	48
Chorley	36	13	7	16	54	51	46
Runcorn	31	10	12	9	44	47	42
Winsford Utd	36	10	12	14	43	48	42
Knowsley	34	10	10	14	46	66	39
Spennymoor	32	9	9	14	46	44	36
Frickley	32	10	6	16	48	64	36
Colwyn Bay	32	8	11	13	46	54	35
Lancaster	32	9	6	17	39	59	33
Bamber Bridge	31	8	5	18	42	73	29
Alfreton Town	33	4	12	17	36	65	24
Witton Alb	32	4	9	19	28	65	21
Buxton	30	2	9	20	20	64	14

FIRST DIVISION: Ashton United 2 Harrogate Town 2, Bradford P A 0 Droylsden 5, Eastwood Town 0 Congleton 0, Farsley Celtic 2 Netherfield 1 Gretna 1 Worksop 0, Lincoln United 1 Leigh 2, Matlock Town 1 Workington 0; Stocksbridge PS 3 Flixton 2. Warrington 3 Curzon Ashton 1, Whitley Bay 2 Atherton L R 0. Yesterday: Workington 0 Bradford Park Avenue 0.

FA CARLSBERG VASE

SEMI-FINALS, first leg: Banstead Ath 0 Whitby 1: Guisborough 0 N Ferriby 2

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers 1 Sawbridgeworth 0; Concord 0 East Ham 1; Eton Manor 0 Basildon 6, Ford United 2 Saffron Walden 0. Hullbridge Sports 1 Great Wakering 1

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham 1 Woodford 1, Beaconsfield SYCOB 2 Harefield 1, Hanwell 1 Cockfosters 4 Haringey 1 Islington St Marys 2 Hillingdon Boro 3 Brimsdown 2 Ruislip Manor 3 Brook House 0: St Margaretsbury 1 Barkingside 0. Waltham Abbey 1 Croydon 2

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford 3 Raynes Park Vale 1, Cobham 0 Merstham 2: Cranleigh 3 Cove 0; Farnham 0 Viking Sports 2: Feltham 7 Chipstead 1, Hartley Wintney 1 Corinthian Casuals 1, Netherne 1 Ash 0: Sandhurst 2 Godalming and Guildford 0. Walton Casuals 0 Bedfont 3. **Postponed:** Reading v Westfield

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedford 2 Arlesey 0: Biggleswade 3 Letchworth 4: Buckingham Athletic 1 Toddington 2: London Colney 3 Hoddesdon 3. Potters Bar 2 Langford 0: Royston 0 Milton Keynes 0, Welwyn Garden 1 Harpenden 1

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridport 2 Bristol Manor Farm 1, Brislington 0 Barnstaple 2, Calne 2 Mangotsfield 3, Chard 1 Taunton 2, Chippenham 1 Bridgwater 1. Elmore 2 Odd Down 2: Tiverton 3 Paulton 0; Westbury 2 Bideford 3.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division. East Barnet OG 1 O Parmiterians 2, Norsemen 0 Polytechnic 4, O Actonians 5 NatWest Bank 1 South Bank 1 Carshalton 2.

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Ashford 1 Halesowen 1; Burton 4 Chelmsford 2; Cambridge City 1 Salisbury 1; Crawley 1 Gloucester 1; Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Nuneaton 1, Gresley 3 Baldock 0; Hastings 1 Cheltenham 2; Merthyr 1 Sittingbourne 4, Newport AFC 0 King's Lynn 2; Sudbury 2 Dorchester 4, Worcester 3 Atherstone 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gresley Rovers	31	20	8	3	57	27	68
Cheltenham	32	18	5	9	59	34	59
Gloucester C	32	17	6	9	60	41	57
Halesowen	32	16	8	8	61	39	56
Kings Lynn	34	16	8	10	51	49	56
Burton Albion	33	15	8	10	57	44	53
Worcester City	35	13	12	10	46	40	51
Nuneaton	32	14	8	10	45	37	50
Gravesend & N	34	14	6	14	55	58	48
Merthyr	33	13	8	12	54	48	47
Sudbury Tn	27	14	4	9	55	43	46
Sittingbourne	32	12	7	13	59	54	43
Salisbury	28	11	9	8	40	40	42
Dorchester	29	12	5	12	47	42	41
Atherstone	32	9	11	12	35	41	38
Crawley Town	31	8	7	16	38	55	31
Ashford Town	29	6	12	11	32	53	30
Baldock Tn	32	8	6	18	37	69	30
Cambridge C	31	7	8	16	39	51	29
Newport AFC	33	7	8	18	33	54	29
Hastings	30	5	12	13	33	51	27
Chelmsford	32	4	10	18	35	58	22

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bedworth 1 Hinckley Town 0; Dudley Town 1 Rothwell 1, Evesham 2 V S Rugby 2, Grantham 0 Tamworth 1 Moor Green 2 Corby 2; Raunds 3 Solihull Boro 1, Shepshed Dynamo 1 Ilkeston 1, Stourbridge 0 Bilston 3. Sutton Coldfield Town 1 R C Warwick 1 **Southern division:** Bashley 4 Weymouth 1; Dartford 0 Yate 0: Fareham 4 Fisher 1 Forest Green 2 St Leonards 1. Havant 4 Buckingham Town 1 Margate 0 Newport (IoW) 0 Tonbridge Angels 2 Clevedon 1, Waterlooville 2 Cinderford 1. Weston-super-Mare 3 Fleet 1: Witney 2 Cirencester 1; Yesterday: St Leonards 2 Waterlooville 0.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 4 Newmarket 1, Clacton 0 Wroxham 3 Fakenham 0 Gorleston 2 Soham 4 Felixstowe P and T 1, Sudbury Wanderers 0 Diss 1 Tiptree 2 Lowestoft 0, Warboys 0 Halstead 2. Wisbech 3 Stowmarket 1, Woodbridge 3 Walton 0

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington 2 Gosport 0 Totton 3 Wimborne Town 2: Aerostructures 2 Bournemouth 0; Brockenhurst 2 Cowes Sports 0. Christchurch 4 Downton 0 East Cowes 0 Bemerton Heath Harl 1; Petersfield 1 B A T 3. Ryde Sports 1 Andover 3: Thatcham 4 Portsmouth R N 2

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Horsham Y M C A 0 Arundel 0: Mile Oak 0 Eastbourne Town 1, Pagham 3 Hailsham 2, Peacehaven and Telscombe 3 Three Bridges 1, Portfield 4 Burgess Hill 2: Ringmer 1 Oakwood 0 Saltdean 1 Southwick 0; Selsey 4 Langney Sports 1; Shoreham 4 Whitehawk 1

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE. First division: Beckenham 1 Corinthian 1. Canterbury 1 Hythe 1. Gray 0 Whitstable 1 Crockenhill 1 Folkestone Invicta 2, Faversham 2 Tunbridge Wells 1, Furness 1 Sheppey 0: Greenwich 2 Slade Green 1, Lordswood 0 Ramsgate 2

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Endsleigh 1 Didcot 1, Fairford 2 Highworth 3. Kintbury 1 Bicester 2: North Leigh 0 Brackley 3: Wantage 1 Shortwood 2. **Premier division Cup: Semi-final, first leg:** Carterton Town 0 Swindon Supermarine 0.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Nottsborough 3 Albanian 2: Parkfield 3 Wandsworth Borough 1; Ulysses 2 Southgate County 1; Witan 1 St Mary's Coll 4

ICIS

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 2 Harrow 0; Bishop's Stortford 2 Purfleet 3, Bromley 3 Hitchin 2, Chertsey 3 Staines 2. Dag and Red 0 Carshalton 1 Dulwich 1 St Albans 2, Grays 1 Kingstonian 1: Oxford City 2 Hendon 0. Sutton United 1 Enfield 1: Yeading 1 Heybridge Swifts 0: Yeovil 0 Boreham Wood 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil	30	22	5	3	54	23	71
Enfield	30	21	7	2	68	22	70
Purfleet	32	14	8	10	51	45	50
Yeading	29	13	10	6	44	28	49
Sutton Utd	27	12	10	5	58	45	46
Oxford City	30	13	7	10	55	51	46
Dulwich	32	12	9	11	48	45	45
Heybridge	31	12	9	10	47	51	45
Dag & Red	27	12	8	7	37	22	44
Carshalton	32	12	8	12	44	43	44
Aylesbury	29	12	8	9	37	36	44
Hitchin	33	12	5	16	51	56	41
St Albans	29	11	7	11	47	46	40
Kingstonian	33	11	6	16	61	68	39
Harrow B	32	8	11	13	44	51	35
Boreham W	27	9	7	11	35	38	34
Bishop's S'tord	31	9	7	15	31	47	34
Bromley	29	9	6	14	48	50	33
Staines	30	8	6	16	36	48	30
Hendon	30	6	11	13	36	47	29
Chertsey Town	33	6	5	22	31	77	23
Grays	28	5	6	17	28	53	21

FIRST DIVISION: Barton 2 Canvey Island 0; Billericay 2 Uxbridge 1, Chesham 1 Bognor Regis 0, Hampton 1 Aldershot Town 1, Maidenhead United 1 Basingstoke 1, Marlow 1 Croydon 1; Molesey 0 Wokingham 0: Thame 1 Tooting and Mitcham 0: Walton and Hersham 2 Abingdon Town 0: Whyteleafe 2 Leyton Pennant 1; Worthing 1 Berkhamsted 1 **Second division:** Barking 1 Metropolitan Police 0: Bracknell 0 Collier Row and Romford 0: Cheshunt 1 Wembley 4; Dorking 0 Bedford Town 3, Edgware 1 Witham 0, Egham 1 Leighton 2, Hemel Hempstead 2 Horsham 1; Hungerford 0 Leatherhead 4, Ware 1 Tilbury 3: Wivenhoe 1 Windsor and Eton 0. **Third division:** Aveley 2 Tring 0: Clapton 1 Braintree 11. Hornchurch 3 Hertford 1, Kingsbury 3 Harlow 0: Lewes 2 East Thurrock 3: Northwood 2 Epsom and Ewell 1, Southall 3 Flackwell Heath 1. Wingate and Finchley 0 Wealdstone 3

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 1 St Neots 0; Eynesbury 0 Bourne 1. Ford Sports 2 M Blackstone 1. Kempston 0 Cogenhoe 3; Long Buckby 1 Spalding 0; Stamford 2 Desborough 1, S and L Corby 3 N Spencer 0; Stotfold 4 Holbeach 2. Wellingborough 1 Newport Pagnell 0. Wootton 0 Potton 2

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Blakenall 5 Stapenhill 0 Bridgnorth 2 Oldbury 0, Hinckley Athletic 2 Shifnal 1, Knypersley 0 Halesowen Harriers 0 Pelsall Villa 1 Rocester 3: Pershore 0 Boldmere St Michaels 3: Rushall Olympic 4 Barwell 1. Sandwell 3 Chasetown 0. Willenhall 2 Stratford 0

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: David Lloyd 2 Massey Ferguson 0; Handrahan Timbers 1 Worcester 1. Highgate 3 Southam 1, Kenilworth 1 Alvechurch 1. Richmond Swifts 0 Bilston Community College 0: Wellesbourne 0 Coventry Sphinx 2. West Midland Fire Service 0 Shirley 3 **Cup: Semi-finals:** Coleshill Town 1 Kings Heath 2: Meir KA 2 Knowle 2 (aet, Knowle win 4-3 on pens)

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carthusians 3 Brentwoods 1, Cholmeleians 0 Lancing 4: Reptonians 1 Foresters 2

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal 1 Crystal Palace 1.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill 7 Darlaston 2, Cradley 3 Tividale 1 Gornal 2 Wednesfield 1. Hill Top 0 Stourport 6, Lye 1 Bloxwich 2. Stafford 3 Ludlow 2: Walsall Wood 2 Ettingshall H T 0 Wolverhampton Casuals 1 Westfield 0 Wolverhampton United 1 Malvern 2

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper Town 4 Arnold Town 2 Brigg Town 7 Hallam 0; Denaby United 1 Pickering Town 1: Hatfield Main 0 Glasshoughton Welfare 3: Hucknall Town 7 Pontefract Cols 0: Ossett Albion 2 Ashfield United 0. Selby Town 1 Armthorpe Welfare 3; Sheffield 0 Maltby M.W 0: Thackley 0 Ossett Town 0

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Chadderton 0 Trafford 4, Clitheroe 4 Blackpool Rovers 0; Darwen 1 Nantwich 1 Glossop North End 2 Salford 1. Holker Old Boys 1 Burscough 1: Maine Road 2 Eastwood Hanley 4. Newcastle Town 2 Mossley 0: Penrith 0 Atherton Collieries 2. Rossendale 4 Bootle 0: St Helens 3 Kidsgrove 0: Vauxhall G M 4 Prescot Cables 1

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 3 Dunston Federation 2, Crook 2 Chester-le-Street 2: Durham 5 Stockton 1; Morpeth 3 Consett 0. Murton 0 Seaham Red Star 0: R T M Newcastle 2 Tow Law 1, Shildon 4 West Auckland 3: South Shields 0 Billingham Synthonia 1: Whickham 1 Easington 2

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES: First division: Cambridge 0 Watford 3. Chelsea 3 Arsenal 0: Gillingham 1 Charlton 1: Leyton Orient 0 Ipswich 2: Norwich 2 Millwall 0: Portsmouth 0 Fulham 1: Southend 1 Queens Park Rangers 1, West Ham 3 Tottenham 1 **Second division:** Colchester 2 Brentford 1. Luton 4 Bournemouth 1, Reading 2 Bristol City 1, Southampton 0 Brighton 0 Swindon 0 Wimbledon 0

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning OB 2 O Kingsburians 0. Latymer OB 0 O Ignatians 6, O Aloysians 5 O Meadonians 3. O Hamptonians 4 O Vaughanians 1; O Tenisonians 2 Glyn OB 0

AFA SENIOR CUP: Fourth round: Crouch End Vampires 2 Lensbury 4, Civil Service 4 West Wickham 2

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Doncaster 4 Croydon 1. Millwall 0 Ilkeston Town 0

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Garswood St Helens 0 Wolverhampton 1: Stourport 1 Notts County 1. **Southern division:** Berkhamstead 4 Wimbledon 2. Leyton Orient 0 Langford 3.

NATIONAL

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Briton Ferry 0 Rhyl 3: Caernarfon 2 Aberystwyth 2, Caersws 2 Holywell 1. Cemaes Bay 0 Newtown 1; Connah's Quay 3 Welshpool 0 Conwy 2 Ton Pentre 0; Ebbw Vale 3 Cwmbran 0. Llansantffraid 1 Barry 0; Porthmadog 0 Carmarthen Town 0; Inter Cable-Tel 2 Flint Town 1

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora 2 Nairn County 0, Deveronvale 2 Peterhead 1, Elgin 1 Lossiemouth 3, Fort William 2 Buckie Thistle 3 Fraserburgh 2 Huntly 1. Keith 5 Clachnacuddin 1, Rothes 2 Cove 2

BASS IRISH CUP: Quarter-finals: Cliftonville 3 Crusaders 1: Glenavon 4 Coagh 0: Loughgall 1 Coleraine 1, Omagh 2 Limavady 2

FAI HARP LAGER: Premier division: Finn Harps 0 Dundalk 0: Sligo Rovers 0 Bray Wanderers 1. Bohemians 0 Derry City 2; Cork City 0 Shelbourne 1, UCD 2 St Patricks Ath 0

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
2	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	2
2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3

FORECASTS: Half-time: No claims are required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is good, seven score draws and 19 no-score draws. Full-time: Claims by telephone for 24 points — winnings sent automatically — forecast is very good; nine score draws and five no-score draws.

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

	HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Rangers	30	12	2	1	39	12	10	3	2	33	14	71	+46
2 Celtic	30	12	1	2	42	9	8	2	5	24	19	63	+38
3 Dundee Utd	30	8	4	3	18	8	7	4	4	24	17	53	+17
4 Hearts	30	7	4	4	23	18	5	4	6	18	21	44	+2
5 Aberdeen	30	5	7	4	23	19	4	4	6	18	28	38	-6
6 Dunfrmne	30	7	2	6	26	26	4	3	8	17	28	38	-11
7 Kilmarnck	30	7	2	6	25	24	2	1	12	10	31	30	-20
8 Motherwll	30	4	3	7	16	21	3	5	8	18	30	29	-17
9 Hibernian	30	4	4	7	12	21	3	4	8	17	27	29	-18
10 Raith	30	3	3	9	16	31	3	2	10	10	25	23	-30

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 St Johnstn	29	10	4	1	32	7	8	3	3	27	12	61	+40
2 Airdrie	29	4	7	3	19	15	8	6	1	27	13	49	+18
3 Dundee	29	8	2	4	19	9	5	8	2	20	18	49	+14
4 St Mirren	29	9	0	5	23	19	5	7	3	20	16	49	+8
5 Partick	29	5	8	2	22	13	5	3	6	22	22	41	+9
6 Falkirk	29	6	6	2	19	13	5	2	8	9	16	41	-1
7 G Morton	29	6	5	4	18	16	3	2	9	14	18	34	-2
8 Stirling	29	5	3	7	20	23	3	5	6	20	28	32	-11
9 Clydebank	29	6	3	5	18	17	1	3	11	9	26	27	-16
10 East Fife	29	1	4	10	14	42	0	3	11	6	37	10	-59

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Ayr	29	10	2	3	27	14	10	3	1	24	13	65	+24
2 Hamilton	28	10	2	2	43	14	7	3	4	17	10	56	+36
3 Livingston	28	9	3	2	25	13	5	6	3	21	18	51	+15
4 Clyde	29	8	3	4	20	15	4	5	5	17	18	44	+4
5 Stenhsmuir	28	4	4	7	17	18	7	3	4	26	14	40	+11
6 Brechin	29	4	6	4	16	17	4	4	7	17	24	34	-8
7 Queen Of S	29	7	2	5	23	23	2	5	8	21	30	34	-9
8 Stranraer	29	4	4	6	13	15	3	3	9	10	27	28	-19
9 Dumbarton	29	1	7	7	19	29	5	0	9	17	28	25	-21
10 Berwick	28	3	4	7	14	27	0	5	10	15	35	18	-33

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Inverness CT	29	11	3	1	30	12	9	3	2	29	15	66	+32
2 Ross Co	29	7	3	4	27	20	8	2	5	20	16	50	+11
3 Forfar	29	6	5	3	26	18	7	4	4	32	24	48	+16
4 Albion	29	8	3	4	24	17	4	5	5	17	18	44	+6
5 Alloa	29	7	3	5	21	20	5	3	6	19	22	42	-2
6 Montrose	29	6	3	6	18	22	6	1	7	23	27	40	-8
7 Cowdnbth	29	4	5	5	17	19	4	1	10	13	24	30	-13
8 Queen's Pk	29	5	3	6	21	21	2	5	8	18	24	29	-6
9 Arbroath	29	4	4	7	16	22	1	7	6	10	19	28	-15
10 East Stirling	29	4	3	7	15	24	2	4	9	14	28	25	-21

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FOOTBALL

Harford fails to see funny side of Birmingham blues

West Bromwich Albion	2
Birmingham City	0

By Richard Hobson

EVEN after such a sweet victory, Ray Harford, the West Bromwich Albion manager, bore the mournful look of a pall-bearer. Clad in his grey suit, he grimaced his way through the post-match press conference without encouraging conversation. Surely, though, his appearance disguised his real emotions. He must have been delighted.

At this stage of the season, Albion are neither in contention for the promotion play-offs nor imperilled at the wrong end of Nationwide League first division. With this display, though, they sent their supporters home with hope that good times beckon in 1997-98.

The same cannot be said of Birmingham City, who are consistent only in their inconsistency. Yesterday, to use the word of Trevor Francis, the manager, they were "woeful". Nobody could have scrutinised more closely the performance than David Sullivan, the co-owner of Birmingham. Last week, in repeating that Francis is safe in his job, he stressed the importance of the finale to this season of underachievement.

"It is vital that we demonstrate we can be promotion candidates next season," Sullivan said. Few will have been convinced by a display that was primitive and ugly. That might have been forgiven, had it not also been completely ineffective.

Burgess and Murphy, the Albion central defenders, coped with the aerial threat of Kevin Francis, and Birmingham, with plan A foiled, found that they had no plan B to turn to. Surely a squad assembled at a cost of almost £6 million can demonstrate more ingenuity.

Afterwards, Francis was as honest as he was baffled. "I do not know how the same players who can give a performance as they did on Tuesday night, when we beat Manchester City, can play like this in the next match," he said. "It was pretty woeful, almost rock-bottom. Sometimes I feel like throwing the names into the hat and pulling 11 out. It is very, very disturbing."

The only mitigation was the loss of Bruce, the towering City captain, after 11 minutes. He was elbowed accidentally below the eye in a collision with Hunt and, in the next challenge, was caught in the same area by Taylor. Bruce will undergo X-rays today.

His loss was evident as Albion went ahead four minutes later. Ablett seemed unaware of Sneekes as he ran behind him, chasing a long pass from Agnew. His despairing challenge arrived too late and Sneekes skipped away and cleverly placed his shot beyond Bennett, the City goalkeeper.

Sneekes revelled in his freedom to run beyond the Albion strikers and played his part in the second goal three minutes into the second half. Taylor headed down Sneekes's corner and Hamilton forced the ball beyond the bodies on the line.

This week Albion hope to conclude the signing of Miller, the goalkeeper, who is on loan from Middlesbrough. Francis, meanwhile, has taken Linda Vhutalezhi, a South Africa midfield player, on trial. On the latest evidence, even Linda Lusardi would improve this side.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): A Miller — P Holmes, S Murphy, D Burgess, P Agnew (sub S Coldicott 72min) — K Donovan, R Sneekes, D Smith, I Hamilton — R Taylor (sub P Butler 85), A Hunt

BIRMINGHAM CITY (3-4-1-2): I Bennett — G Ablett, S Bruce (sub M Johnson, 11), D Barnett — K Brown (sub B Hughes, 52), P Tait, M O'Connor, M Grainger — J Bowen — P Furlong (sub P Devlin, 52), K Francis

Referee: N Barry.

Fulham's clinical edge delivers vital victory

Leyton Orient	0
Fulham	2

By Ivo Tennant

FOR Fulham to gain promotion from the Nationwide League third division, homely and lowly clubs such as Leyton Orient have to be beaten on their own grounds as clinically and decisively as possible. That was what occurred yesterday, even if both goals, one of them a penalty, were not scored until well into the second half.

Fulham are now level on points with second-placed Wigan Athletic. It was not much of a match, but this was the tenth away victory of the season for Micky Adams's team, and only Wolverhampton Wanderers have done better in England. Blake scored a penalty and Carpenter gained the second goal in the final minute.

After the pitch invasion at Brighton last weekend, when Orient were the visitors, Barry Hearn and Jimmy Hill, the chairmen, went on to the pitch in the spring sunshine before the start yesterday, shaking hands in an appeal for pleasantry between both sets of supporters. Indeed, there was.

As for Wilkins, who bravely protected the referee from one miscreant at Brighton, this was more an afternoon of head tennis that football. The ball was in the air far too often, and to little effect. Orient thumped it forward, often from the vicinity of left back. There is scant purpose in including a midfield player of vast international experience if he is not to be brought into play more often.

Fulham deserved to take the lead midway through the second half, if only because twice in quick succession Shearer and Naylor committed dreadfully clumsy fouls. The second of these, on Freeman, was in Orient's penalty area, and Blake struck the ensuing kick into Hyde's right-hand corner.

Orient came up with little in attack other than one drive from Channing that Walton parried instinctively. Fulham made certain of an important victory when Brooker, finding himself in some space on the right, crossed to Carpenter, who capitalised after two poor attempts at a clearance.

LEYTON ORIENT (4-4-2): P Hyde — D Chapman, M Warren, L Shearer (sub. S Winston, 75min), D Naylor — J Baker (sub: A Arnott, 82), R Wilkins, J Channing, L Hodges (sub: M Ling, 26) — C Griffiths, S McGleish

FULHAM (5-3-2): M Walton — M Lawrence, N Cusack, M Blake, D Cullip, P Watson — R Scott (sub: M Conroy, 66), R Carpenter, S Morgan — D Freeman (sub: P Brooker, 86), C Warren (sub M Thomas, 79)

Referee: D Orr

Whitby put their crowd to good use

Banstead Athletic	0
Whitby Town	1

By Walter Gammie

A BANNER reading "Whitby Wembley Winners ... Probably" hung over the railings as the visiting supporters brought noise and colour to a FA Carlsberg Vase semi-final first-leg match that attracted 1,288 people in what Terry Molloy, the Banstead Athletic chairman, described as "an unknown factor ... a crowd" at Merland Rise.

Yet a curious contest left the Federation Brewery Northern League side reluctant to look beyond the return leg on Saturday despite taking a 1-0 lead back to Yorkshire. The goal came in the fourth minute when Logan's corner skimmed the head of Pearson and went in off the forehead of Liddle, the Banstead striker, and the woodwork.

Despite the early encouragement, Whitby struggled to find real fluency, hampered by the ball bouncing around on a firm pitch and the increasingly-confident attentions of their Icis League opponents.

Tarr, in the Banstead goal, tipped over a Hodgson shot carefully directed towards the top left-hand corner of his net, and reacted smartly to block a close-range shot by Pitman, but Campbell, his opposite number, came off the pitch the more battered.

He was under intense pressure as he fisted clear a sequence of corners off the head of the powerful Liddle, and when Hall, 18, came on for Kilpatrick, who had struggled with a hamstring injury, Banstead found enough impetus to test Whitby. It left Bob Langford, the Banstead manager, saying: "We've come so far, we're not going to give up without a fight in the second leg."

BANSTEAD ATHLETIC (3-5-2): S Tarr — R Welch, R Langley, M Stratford — E Vassell, J Sweeny, G Foremen, R Vercesi, S Letuske — I Kilpatrick (sub. S Hall, 73min), S Liddle.

WHITBY TOWN (3-5-2): D Campbell — D Goodchild, L Pearson, M Cook — A Martin, N Hodgson, K Goodrick, A Toman, D Logan — J Borthwick, P Pitman

Referee: M Fletcher.

City celebrate as order is restored

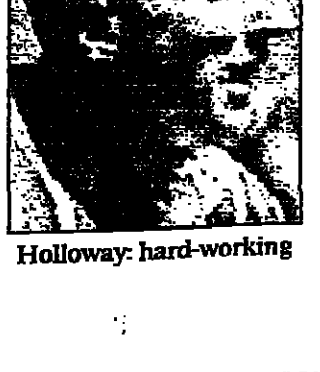
Bristol Rovers	1
Bristol City	2

By Russell Kempson

AMID a tense and uneasy atmosphere of mutual distrust and dislike, Bristol's 82nd League derby was played out at the Memorial Ground yesterday. It was not an occasion to savour, such is the antipathy — past and present — between the blue and red sections of the city. That the game went ahead and was finished, relatively skirmish-free, could be deemed a minor achievement.

Much baggage had been carried into the Nationwide League second division tussle, with the corresponding fixture at Ashton Gate in December having concluded in a punch or two short of a riot. Although City subsequently issued life bans on two dozen miscreats, they were warned by the Football Association that they would be deducted two points should their supporters misbehave again before the end of the year.

Thus, only 700 specially vetted City supporters were allowed to grace the arena with their presence. They were bussed in, crammed into a tight corner, guarded by a posse of stewards and police and then bussed out again. Undignified it might have been, but the net gain, a victory that propels City towards a play-off place, must have made it all worthwhile.


Holloway: hard-working

Entertained, though, they were not. Few were. City triumphed, on a bumpy pitch and in blustery conditions, because they possessed several individuals — most notably Bent and Hewlett — who were at least able to rise above the ordinary.

"We kept our composure and discipline, which gave us the platform to build on," Joe Jordan, the City manager, said. "I never thought we were in too much danger. At this stage of the season, the result is always more important than the performance."

Rovers, who lie only three points above the second division trap door, have nobody to call on in their 1½ hours of need. Even the best efforts of Ian Holloway, their industrious player-manager, failed to inspire those around him.

City went ahead in the 31st minute, when Agostino burst through three half-hearted challenges before cleverly clipping the ball past Collett. It sparked the discovery of a group of senseless City infiltrators in the Rovers-dominated Clubhouse End. After an outbreak of sporadic scuffling, they were eventually ejected. Peace was restored.

Rovers could have equalised, when Owers was harshly penalised for handling a shot that was driven at him by Cureton from close range, but Beadle's weak penalty was easily saved by Naylor. City capitalised, in the 72nd minute, when Goater galloped through to guide in his nineteenth goal of the season.

Though Alsop headed in Holloway's late corner, it was no more than cosmetic. The damage was done. "It was nice to give our small group of fans something to cheer about," Jordan said. "Overall, I thought the Bristol public handled the situated very well." Only just, Joe. Only just.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A Collett — D Pritchard, T White, A Tillson, G Power (sub F Bennett, 60min) — P Miller (sub M Hayfield, 76), I Holloway, J Skinner (sub. J Alsop, 76), L Martin — P Beadle, J Cureton

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): S Naylor — L Carey, R Edwards (sub S Paterson, 46), S Taylor, J Brennan — J Vent, G Owers, M Hewlett, D Barnard — P Agostino, S Goater (sub K Nugent, 88).

Referee: C Wilkes

ALLSPORT

McMillan celebrates after trapping Taylor, the Australia captain, leg-before. South Africa need quick wickets today if they are to avoid defeat

Waugh wrests advantage away from South Africa

From Jack Bannister in Port Elizabeth

PORT ELIZABETH (third day of five): Australia, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 125 runs to beat South Africa

FEW teams have won a Test by making the biggest score of the match in the fourth innings, but Australia will do so today if they can muster the 125 runs that they need to beat South Africa and establish a 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

South Africa's best chance lies with Allan Donald, who once again bowled magnificently without luck. It is a travesty that his 34 overs in the match have produced only one wicket. He has beaten the bat at least once an over.

Conditions notwithstanding, South Africa again batted poorly. Leading by 184 at the start of play, they lost all ten wickets for 85 runs in 44 overs, and half of the top order again got themselves out. Exempt from criticism were Kirsten, bowled from around the wicket by Gillespie for 43, Cullinan, who was given out leg-before to what television replays suggested was a no-ball, and Cronje, who was deceived by Bevan.

Kallis was brilliantly thrown out by Blewett to start a run of three wickets in 16 balls, and two in seven for Gillespie, who had Adam Bacher mis-hooking to long leg for 49. Gillespie's opening spell was 9-4-13-3 and, once McGrath had Gibbs driving loosely to slip at 122 for five, the door was open for the Australia spinners. Bevan went around the wicket and won a leg-before decision with the last ball before lunch when McMillan missed an ugly pull.

In came Pollock with a runner, the plan being for him to attack while Cronje tried to stay and extend the lead to more than 300, but Cronje failed to pick half a dozen googlies from Bevan, the last of which took the edge to give Healy his 299th Test victim.

Pollock was next to go, leg-before to Warne for 17 to one that pitched middle and leg and straightened just enough.

Now it was up to Richardson and the tail again, but Donald and Adams let their side down with wild strokes — Adams, indeed, was caught at slip off a reverse sweep.

Mark Taylor was soon leg-before to McMillan for 13 before Hayden was run out in comical fashion, but Mark Waugh and Elliott batted with freedom to add 83 in 23 overs before Adams took a return catch to dismiss Elliott for 44. South Africa might win only two or three games out of ten from this position, but early wickets today will soon redress the balance.

PORT ELIZABETH SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 209 (B M McMillan 55; J N Gillespie 5 for 54)

Second Innings

G Kirsten b Gillespie	43
A M Bacher c McGrath b Gillespie	49
J H Kallis run out	2
D J Cullinan lbw b Gillespie	2
*W J Cronje c Healy b Bevan	27
H H Gibbs c M E Waugh b McGrath	7
B M McMillan lbw b Bevan	2
S M Pollock lbw b Warne	17
†D J Richardson not out	3
A A Donald c Warne b Bevan	7
P R Adams c Taylor b Warne	1
Extras (b 1, lb 5, nb 2)	8
Total	168

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-87, 2-98, 3-99, 4-100, 5-122, 6-137, 7-152, 8-156, 9-167.

BOWLING: McGrath 13-3-43-1; Gillespie 18-4-49-3, S R Waugh 4.3-0-16-0; Blewett 7 3-3-16-0; Warne 17.4-7-20-2; Bevan 13-3-18-3

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M L Hayden c Cullinan b Pollock	0
*M A Taylor c Richardson b Pollock	8
M T G Elliott run out	23
M E Waugh lbw b Cronje	20
S R Waugh c Richardson b McMillan	8
G S Blewett b Donald	13
M G Bevan c Richardson b McMillan	0
†I A Healy c Bacher b Cronje	5
S K Warne lbw b Adams	18
J N Gillespie not out	1
G D McGrath c Richardson b Kallis	0
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 2, nb 2)	12
Total	108

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-13, 3-48, 4-64, 5-66, 6-70, 7-85, 8-86, 9-106.

BOWLING: Donald 23-13-18-1; Pollock 6-3-6-2; Adams 4-0-5-1; McMillan 14-2-32-2; Cronje 14-7-21-2; Kallis 9 4-2-18-1.

Second Innings

*M A Taylor lbw b McMillan	13
M L Hayden run out	14
M T G Elliott c and b Adams	44
M E Waugh not out	54
S R Waugh not out	11
Extras (b 6, lb 2, w 1)	9
Total (3 wkts)	145

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-30, 3-113

BOWLING: Donald 11-2-44-0; McMillan 11-3-24-1; Cronje 8-1-23-0; Kallis 6-1-17-0; Adams 8-1-29-1.

Umpires: R E Koertzen (South Africa) and S Venkataraghavan (India).

Pitch cover-up puts Australia in spin

From Jack Bannister

THE Australia management complained about the arrangements for covering the pitch on the first evening of the St George's Test match. It seems that they were tipped off earlier in the day that normal hessian covering underneath the plastic sheet covers would not be used.

It is on most Test grounds, and certainly was during the first Test, at Wanderers in Johannesburg. As soon as they saw the sheet covers rolled on with no hessian protection underneath, they approached the umpires and Raman Subba Row, the match referee, to complain.

Their point was that hessian absorbs any moisture created by overnight sheet covering and they wanted a dry pitch on which to bat on Saturday. A study of the rules showed that each ground authority is responsible for its own method of covering and, therefore, no instructions could be issued. Subba Row said: "The rules do not stipulate any particular type of covering and the Australian management accepted this.

"I shall make it an item in my match report to David Richards, of ICC [International Cricket Council] in London, that I believe covering should be uniform on a national, if not international, basis."

The Australians were clearly unhappy about the pitch and its behaviour on the first day, with the richly grassed surface surprising even the local experts with its extravagant bounce and movement.

Percy Mclean, the groundsman, and David Emslie, the chief executive of Eastern Province, denied that they had received any instructions from the national authority, but Mclean's prematch forecast that the bounce would be trustworthy once early moisture had dried out was wildly inaccurate.

Australia started the second dramatic day convinced that they would bat on a snakepit. Their approach was tentative, even when Pollock limped out of the match, and probably the series, after taking the wicket of Taylor in his second over.

Donald was magnificent with a scant reward of one wicket for two spells totalling 18 overs that were wonderful exhibitions of athletic and genuinely fast bowling of the highest quality. The fact that no home bowler took more than two wickets showed how Australia contributed much towards a poor performance of 98 runs scored to the loss of nine wickets in 58 overs.

The rub of the green went against them — Mark Waugh suffered a leg-before decision that, at best, was marginal. Elliott was run out after a piece of ball watching from Steve Waugh, and Bevan's duck came from a carelessly flicked leg-side stroke that gave Richardson the second of his three catches.

Early setback fails to unsettle India

DESPITE losing Rahul Dravid to the third ball of the day, India continued to build a solid reply to West Indies' first innings score of 296 yesterday. India reached 287 for two at lunch on the third day of the second Test at Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Their hero of the second day, Navjot Sidhu, the opening batsman, was still there at the interval on 158. Sachin Tendulkar, his captain, who never looked the dominating player he can be, was on 58.

Dravid failed to add to his 57 before he was bowled by Curtly Ambrose. His innings lasted 268 minutes and 182 balls and he made a vauluable contribution to the second-wicket partnership with Sidhu, which was worth 171 runs. The West Indies' pace attack all bowled with good control and accuracy and India only managed to hit two boundaries, both struck by the bat of Tendulkar, in the two-hour period before lunch.

India, however, now have the initiative in this Test, thanks to Sidhu and Dravid, who frustrated West Indies on Saturday. The India supporters will now be looking for a similar performance from Tendulkar who, like Sidhu, failed to make an impact in the drawn first Test in Jamaica.

Playing on the ground where they recorded their last Test victory in the Caribbean 21 years ago, India had earlier polished off the West Indies tail after the home team had resumed on an overnight total of 239 for seven, the last three wickets faling for just seven runs.

Roland Holder saw his leg stump dislodged by Sunil Joshi, the left-arm spinner, on 91, after an innings that lasted 239 balls and 293 minutes. Courtney Walsh, the West Indies captain, was next to be dismissed, when he was caught behind off the bowling of Saurav Ganguly without scoring.

Franklyn Rose had given able support to Holder, contributing 34 in a stand of 69, an eighth-wicket record for West Indies against India.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S L Campbell c Prasad b Kumble	8
S C Williams c Dravid b Kumble	18
S Chanderpaul c Mongia b Prasad	42
B C Lara c Azharuddin b Joshi	14
C L Hooper c Azharuddin b Kumble	40
R I C Holder b Joshi	71
†J R Murray c and b Kumble	11
C E L Ambrose c Dravid b Kumble	16
*C A Walsh c Mongia b Ganguly	0
F A Rose c Dravid b Joshi	34
M V Dillon not out	0
Extras (lb 20, nb 2)	22
Total	296

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-29, 3-59, 4-99, 5-149, 6-169, 7-220, 8-289, 9-290.

BOWLING: Prasad 26-9-54-1; Kuruvilla 22-9-36-0; Kumble 39-8-104-5, Joshi 22.3-2-79-3; Ganguly 5-3-3-1

INDIA: First Innings

V V S Laxman lbw b Ambrose	0
N S Sidhu not out	158
R S Dravid b Ambrose	57
*S R Tendulkar not out	58
Extras (b 2, lb 6, nb 6)	14
Total (2 wkts)	287

S C Ganguly, M Azharuddin, †N R Mongia, A Kumble, S Joshi, A Kuruvilla and B K V Prasad to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-171

BOWLING: Ambrose 28-6-58-2; Walsh 28-10-49-0, Rose 24-5-69-0, Dillon 21-4-53-0; Hooper 19-5-44-0, Chanderpaul 2-0-6-0

Umpires: L R Barker (West Indies) and S G Randell (Australia)

Sri Lanka face uphill fight

SRI LANKA made a disastrous start to their quest for victory late on the third day of the second Test match against New Zealand in Hamilton yesterday.

Sri Lanka's chances of scoring the 326 runs required to win received an immediate setback when Sanath Jayasuriya, the opening batsman, ran himself out while seeking a second run in the second over of their innings.

Worse was to follow in the ninth over when Daniel Vettori, the left-arm spinner, bowled Hashan Tillekeratne around his legs before Sri Lanka limped to the close on 20 for two.

New Zealand were dismissed for 273 in their second innings, giving them an advantage of 325 with more than two days to play, before Jayasuriya ran himself out after turning Heath Davis behind square leg.

Simon Doull, fielding on the fine-leg boundary, ran in quickly and fired a quick and accurate return to Adam Parore, the wicketkeeper, who took off the bails with Jayasuriya just short of his ground.

New Zealand's second innings had featured half-centuries for Bryan Young, Stephen Fleming, the captain, and Nathan Astle.

Muttiah Muralitharan, the off spinner, took three for 62, becoming the first Sri Lanka bowler to take 100 wickets in Test matches when he bowled Fleming.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 222 (B A Pocock 85)

Second Innings

B A Young c Ranatunga b Dharmasena	62
B A Pocock c Mahanama b Zoysa	7
M J Horne st Kaluwitharana b Muralitharan	16
*S P Fleming b Muralitharan	69
N J Astle c Mahanama b Vaas	52
C L Cairns c sub b Muralitharan	4
†A C Parore run out	2
D N Patel c P A de Silva b Dharmasena	4
D L Vettori b Zoysa	6
S B Doull c Mahanama b Zoysa	25
H T Davis not out	2
Extras (b 9, lb 11, w 7, nb 7)	34
Total	273

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-64, 3-108, 4-183, 5-198, 6-201, 7-211, 8-239, 9-243

BOWLING: Vaas 15-3-34-1; Zoysa 22.4-7-53-3, Dharmasena 24-5-75-2; S C de Silva 10-2-29-0, Muralitharan 26-7-62-3.

SRI LANKA: First Innings

S T Jayasuriya c Astle b Davis	20
R S Mahanama lbw b Vettori	45
H P Tillekeratne c Young b Doull	2
P A de Silva c Parore b Vettori	1
*A Ranatunga lbw b Davis	4
†R S Kaluwitharana c Parore b Davis	11
H D P K Dharmasena c Fleming b Davis	27
W P U J C Vaas c Pocock b Vettori	28
N Zoysa c Doull b Vettori	14
S C de Silva not out	0
M Muralitharan c Parore b Davis	5
Extras (lb 9, w 1, nb 3)	13
Total	170

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-57, 3-58, 4-76, 5-87, 6-93, 7-144, 8-154, 9-165.

BOWLING: Doull 13-4-19-1; Davis 20.2-3-63-5; Astle 3-1-8-0; Vettori 25-8-46-4; Patel 8-2-25-0.

Second Innings

S T Jayasuriya run out	3
R S Mahanama not out	6
H P Tillekeratne b Vettori	10
W P U J C Vaas not out	0
Extras (w 1)	1
Total (2 wkts)	20

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-16

BOWLING: Doull 4-2-4-0; Davis 5-0-12-0; Vettori 2-0-4-1.

Umpires: D B Cowie (New Zealand) and Mahboob Shah (Pakistan)

0800 111 210

A18

David Miller laments the devaluation of one of badminton's most prestigious tournaments

Chinese fail to set the pulses racing

THE dominance of the Chinese. winning four of the five Yonex All-England Open badminton finals, plus the apparent absence of a desire to win shown by their other two finalists and incompetent order-of-play scheduling throughout the tournament, seriously jeopardised the prestige of this long-standing tournament this year.

Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen. of Denmark. the defending and Olympic champion, who lives in England and was attempting to win his third consecutive title, was regularly and inexplicably put on court so late in the evening that many spectators had left for home, or gone in search of something to eat in preferenee to the limited fast-food available at the National Indoor Arena, in Birmingham.

Results 39

Hoyer-Larsen lost to Dong Jiong, of China, in the semi-final. Much was made of Dong's cheers on the medal rostrum when he lost to Hoyer-Larsen in the final in Atlanta last year. Though he now punched the air when beating Sun Jun, his compatriot, 15-9, 15-5, the one-sidedness left an audience of 5,500 as silent as an undertaker's parlour.

The all-Chinese women's final was even less spectacular. Ye Zhaoying, seeded only to reach the semi-final, beat Gong Zhichao, the No 2 seed, 11-1, 11-3. When questioned afterwards about her meek performance, Gong denied that she was either injured or ill, and said merely that she did not feel in the right condition. It will be asked whether the two women were under instruction from their coaches as to the outcome. Were this Cheltenham, there would have been a stewards' inquiry and the £4,000 winner's prize withheld.

After losing to Gong in the quarter-final, Susi Susanti, the accomplished Indonesian, had paid tribute to Gong's tenacity in the rallies. In the final Gong seemed unable to push Ye to a rally worthy of the name.

Sun Jun led 9-8 in the first game against Dong, the pair never having met before at international level, but from then on Sun won only another five points. Dong's speed of reaction, recovery shots at the net and angled smashes gained him almost total command, earning admiration if rarely applause.

Sun's last hope came when he partially recovered from 5-1 down in the second game to 5-3. Dong, regaining service, then played a stunning point of consecutive lightning shots to lead 6-3, and thereafter began to pick his winners at will. He could be said genuinely to have earned his £6,000 prize.

Seldom did Sun recapture his form of the semi-final, which had enabled him to dispose of Heryanto Arbi, of Indonesia, the reigning world champion. That had been one of the most authoritative performances of the tournament, but in the final Sun was lacking the power and the judgment of line from the previous day.

The only interruption of the Chinese monopoly came when Ha Tae Kwon and Kang Kyung Jin, of South Korea, beat Jon Holst-Christensen and Michael Sogaard, of Denmark, to take the men's doubles, squeezing home 17-16 in an exciting second set. Ge Fei, of China, who had been the key figure in the mixed doubles semi-final defeat of Chris Hunt and Donna Kellogg, of England, achieved a doubles double: the women's event, with Gu Jun, and the mixed with Liu Yong, each against Indonesian opposition.

The enduring lesson for home players, and for British coaches, has been that, as in nearly all contemporary sports, a fundamental requirement is speed. The eye-hand-foot reaction of the Chinese, Indonesians and Malaysians is such that one wonders whether Europe can build any long-term challenge to Asian supremacy.

STUART HARRISON

Eclipsing Sun: Dong keeps his compatriot at bay in the men's singles final in Birmingham

Olympic inclusion poses dilemma for the best of British

Badminton is now trapped in the same dilemma that has confronted several British sports over the past half-century: the separate affiliation of the home countries to the International Badminton Federation (IBF), with the complication that representation at the Olympic Games is by a single Great Britain team. Football, hockey and table tennis, in particular, have all experienced difficulty resolving this double-identity existence and, indeed, football has preferred latterly not to do so.

The dilemma becomes particularly relevant for the home countries with the probability that badminton's status within the Olympic Games, of which it became a part in 1992, will grow substantially by the turn of the century. If the present decline at international level is to be halted, then performance in the Olympic Games, as a shop window, will become increasingly important, particularly in the attraction of sponsors.

Television viewing figures for badminton at the Games in Atlanta were huge in China, Indonesia and Japan, three of the foremost playing countries. With Lu Sungrong, of China, now president of the IBF, the prominence of the game within the Olympics can be expected to be pursued vigorously.

Although Nick Ponting and Joanne Wright, of England, won the prestigious Yonex All-England Open mixed doubles three years ago, the last domestic singles victories were by Gillian Gilkes, when she won two of five finals in the Seventies. With all home interest in the singles events at the All-England competition this year extinguished by the second round, deciding on the correct route for future development is critical.

Craig Reedie, the former chairman of the IBF, present chairman of the British Olympic Association (BOA) and member of the International Olympic Committee, was the most instrumental figure in attaining badminton's Olympic status five years ago. He emphasised the shift within the game, for which the Thomas Cup, for men, and Uber Cup, for women, have hitherto been, like the Davis Cup in tennis, the foremost attraction.

"I have no doubt," Reedie said, "that the Olympic gold medal will become the highest prize in badminton. If that is to be so, then we [Britain] will have to adapt some of our present systems and priorities ... if not, we will deny young players in Britain access to the pinnacle of their sport."

The conflict of interest is obvious, the route unclear. The separate home associations predominantly fund the players' preparation, even though the game is now strongly professional, and support from the BOA for the Olympic Games has hitherto been relatively small. That will change with the arrival of lottery funding and the establishment of the UK Sports Council, with its responsiblity for elite British sport.

Last year antagonism between English and British camps was intensified by the decision by Simon Archer, Julie Bradbury and Joanne Wright, three prominent England players, to place preparation for the Atlanta Games above representing England internationally.

Stephen Baddeley, the new elite director of the Badminton Association of England (BAE), is understandably equivocal, acknowledging the double objectives. "Of course we [the BAE] recognise the importance of the Olympic Games, but this is not the only priority," he said. "We need to keep things in perspective. The Olympic event comes only once every four years and it is not a team event, as such, for which you need collective preparation under a full-time team manager or coach."

The problem that Baddeley and the BAE somehow have to overcome is that, as last year, individual players are increasingly likely to make their prime target the Olympic Games. It will not be easy for coaches and administrators.

DAVID MILLER

BASKETBALL

Leopards claw back from brink of defeat

By Nicholas Harling

THEIR intimidating style of "streetball" might not be to the liking of connoisseurs, but, if nothing else, the Leopards now command a grudging respect for the devastatingly effective brand of basketball that has swept them to the top of the Budweiser League.

Clearly not sated by their triumph two months ago in the National Cup, the London club have since won ten successive league games, the latest by 88-84 over Thames Valley Tigers on Saturday, to emphasise that the title is also within their reach.

Not for the first time, the Leopards seized a match that appeared to be slipping from their grasp. Eight points adrift at 76-68 going into the final quarter at Bracknell, they still managed to pull the game from the fire.

It was a meagre feat compared to the previous week's rally from arrears of 20 points to beat London Towers, but Billy Mimms, the Leopards coach, was no less impressed. "People lose faith in these guys, but they have the ability to refuse to lose," he said. "That's why our motto is 'Refuse to lose'."

There are still certain matters that wrankle with Mimms. "I am tired of people slagging us off, saying we self-destruct," he said. "We pull together and make smart decisions. I am tired of people saying we can't be champions and I'm tired of people saying we have no depth."

Ronnie Baker had hit three three-pointers during the first quarter to signal the Leopards' intentions, but it was when Jason Seaman exerted a strenuous influence on proceedings that the Tigers took control. Exhausted by the efforts that brought him 22 points, Seaman pleaded for a rest in the final quarter.

"Perhaps I should have brought him back earlier," Mick Bett, the Tigers coach, said ruefully after seeing John White complete his tally of 24 points for the Leopards with five decisive shots from six at the free-throw line in the last five minutes.

Manchester Giants secured a place in the play-offs by following up the home win over Newcastle Eagles on Friday with a 92-86 victory at Derby Storm, whose own play-off hopes faded with news of Leicester Riders' 89-67 triumph over Crystal Palace.

ATHLETICS

Regions win cash battle

By David Powell, athletics correspondent

THE Tug-of-War Association remains a constituent part of the British Athletic Federation (BAF) and, though it was not mentioned by name at the BAF annual meeting in Birmingham on Saturday, the room was full of people pulling in opposite directions. In the most keenly-awaited pull, the South of England Athletic Association (SEAA) succeeded with its resolution to allow national and regional associations to conduct their own television and sponsorship deals, defeating the BAF.

In another acrimonious contest, the usually avuncular Ken Rickhuss, the BAF chairman, became involved in a war of words with Sir Arthur Gold, a BAF life member. Each accused the other of speaking "untruths" over whether the BAF or AAA of England was to blame for the AAA championships losing their status as trials for the world championships.

On that subject, which means that British championships will be created to incorporate the trials, Rickhuss said: "I am devastated because I really think we are destroying ourselves."

The motion to allow national and regional associations to conduct their own television and sponsorship deals, which now needs approval from the BAF council, arose from the growing poverty among the non-elite. Leagues and coaching have suffered cuts in support as the BAF's income has nosedived.

As part of restructuring, the BAF has "ring-fenced" its finances, ensuring that television and sponsorship income is spent only in the areas for which the money is provided. "This [ring-fencing] is going to put the regions into a very difficult position." Bill Laws, of Belgrave Harriers, said. "They must have opportunity to raise their own funding because it is quite clear those moneys are not going to be forthcoming from the federation."

MPs from the main parties will this week lend their support to the campaign to prevent the National Sports Centre at Crystal Palace from being pulled down by Bromley council.

Such squabbling cannot have impressed the English Sports Council's observer at a time when doubts have been raised over lottery funding for the BAF because athletics is perceived as a divided sport. As Peter Radford, the BAF executive chairman, had said in the week: "There has to be a will to act as one."

Radford believes that "ring fencing" will guarantee the lottery money. However, because it is centred on the elite, the clubs feel left out. When Rickhuss said "Surely we are all about athletes?", one club delegate shouted: "The 99 per cent, not the one per cent." Rickhuss also let slip that the four-year television contract was worth £4 million, previously a guarded secret.

Next month Radford departs his post and leaves the sport to seek a successor with financial qualifications, preferably legal experience and who need not know anything about athletics, which will end speculation linking Brendan Foster with the job.

Stephen Gledhill, the director of finance, who is leaving, too, noted that public interest in the sport was flagging, that the federation's cash resources were "dwindling rapidly" and that restructuring was essential. "There are too many vested interests in our sport, too many people all too willing to throw out the anchors to halt progress," he said.

SNOOKER

Ebdon sets his sights on victory

From Phil Yates
in Bangkok

PETER EBDON, whose first and solitary world ranking tournament triumph was at the 1993 Skoda Grand Prix, was within two frames of victory over Nigel Bond in the final of the Thailand Open at the Century Park Hotel here last night.

After winning a scrappy thirteenth frame to establish a 7-6 lead, Ebdon emerged as a marginal favourite to collect the £40,000 first prize.

Ebdon, who refused to compromise his new, aggressive approach when beating Ronnie O'Sullivan 5-1 in the semi-final, trailed 4-2 during the afternoon session as Bond, with breaks of 66, 36, 35, 71, 64 and 38, seized early control.

A pair of half-centuries enabled Ebdon to draw level at 4-4 and, when play resumed, contributions of 40 and 58 extended his frame-winning sequence to four and guaranteed *him* a 6-4 advantage.

Bond won a disjointed eleventh frame and then tied the scores at 6-6 by snatching a dramatic twelfth. Leading 62-36, Bond narrowly failed to escape from a snooker on the brown, and, worse still, left a free ball. Ebdon cleared to pink, but, standing one pot away from 7-5, missed the black from short range.

In the light of such a setback, Ebdon did well to prevail in the thirteenth and leave Bond requiring three of the remaining four frames.

Bond arrived in the final via a 5-4 victory over Stephen Hendry, the world champion, after falling 4-2 adrift. More relaxed than usual, and benefiting from the misapprehension that the semi-finals were contested over the best of 11 frames, Bond fought back strongly.

"I only realised that it was best of nine when Stephen shook my hand at the start of the decider," Bond, who also recovered from a 35-0 deficit in the closing frame, said. "I can't believe I made a mistake like that, but, ironically, it helped me."

RESULTS: Semi-finals: P Ebdon (Eng) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 5-1, N Bond (Eng) bt S Hendry (Scot) 5-4. Final: Ebdon leads Bond 7-6. Frame scores (Ebdon first) 71-8, 34-67, 73-0, 8-65, 11-106, 23-85, 75-38, 72-2, 71-11, 66-18, 29-65, 59-69, 64-17

ICE HOCKEY

Eagles and Panthers renew acquaintances

By Norman de Mesquita

THE Superleague championship semi-finals next Saturday will pit Ayr Scottish Eagles against Nottingham Panthers in a repeat of the Benson and Hedges Cup final, while Cardiff Devils will play Sheffield Steelers.

The Steelers clinched second place in group B with a 3-2 win over Basingstoke Bison on Saturday, but it needed a goal by Nicky Chinn in the second minute of overtime to defeat a stubborn Bison team, for whom Richard Gallace performed splendidly in goal. They were outshot 38-14.

Needing a win to be sure of a semi-final berth, the Eagles started quickly against Newcastle Cobras and led 3-0 midway through the first period with goals from Sam Groleau, Markus Berwanger and Jiri Lala. Brendan Flynn made it 4-0 in the second minute of the second period, but Anthony Johnson hit back to put the Cobras on the scoreboard. Mark Woolf and Terho Koskela then exchanged goals to make it 5-2 at the second interval.

Jeff Macleod took advantage of a defensive lapse by Ryan Kummu to make if 5-3 early in the third period, but Lala restored Ayr's three-goal margin two minutes later. Some over-fussy refereeing saw seven penalties called in the final period, but the official missed a blatant Newcastle offence when Jukka Soumalainen brought the Cobras within two with some four minutes remaining. This led to a hectic final few minutes, but Ayr held out for a 6-4 victory and a place in the semi-finals.

In the other group B game, Marty Dallman scored in the second minute to give the Panthers an early lead over Bracknell Bees. Paul Adey scored either side of the first interval and, with a 3-0 lead early in the second period, the Panthers appeared to be coasting to victory.

However, Mike Ellis put Bracknell on the board in the final minute of the second period and, early in the third, Jeff Johnstone pulled the Bees back to within one goal.

With less than four minutes remaining, Dallman scored his second of the evening to restore a two-goal margin for the Panthers, who withstood a strong Bracknell rally and a Dale Junkin goal in the final minute.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Vauxhall Conference

Hednesford v Kidderminster (7.45)
Northwich v Halifax (7.45)
Stevenage v Altrincham (7.45)

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Ireland B v FAI League (at Tolka Park, 4.0)

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Croydon v Barton Rovers. **Third division:** Tring v Flackwell Heath

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde v Alfreton. **President's Cup: Semi-final, first leg:** Radcliffe v Worksop

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea v Swindon (at Kingstonian, 7.0); Queens Park Rangers v Wimbledon (at Harrow Borough, 7.0)

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby v Liverpool (7.0); Everton v Stoke (at Southport FC, 7.0); Manchester Utd v Birmingham (at Bury FC, 7.0). **Second division:** Mansfield v Bradford (7.0); Stockport v Shrewsbury (6.45)

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Woolwich v Chatham

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Portsmouth v Brockenhurst.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Women's British indoor championships (at Perth).

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Second division: South Wales Police v Llandovery (7.0)

CLUB MATCHES: Gloucester v Army (7.0); Northampton v RAF (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Women's home international championships (at Perth)

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes.

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare)

WEDNESDAY

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Second division: Cross Keys v Bonymaen (7.0); Cardiff Institute v Aberavon (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Sheffield v London Towers (7.0)

BOWLS: Women's home international championships (at Perth)

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes

ROWING: Schools Head of the River (Tideway)

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare).

THURSDAY

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leopards v Leicester (7.0).

BOWLS: Women's home international championships (at Perth)

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare)

FRIDAY

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Oldham v Bradford (7.30), Paris Saint-Germain v Leeds (7.0); Warrington v London (7.30). **First division:** Dewsbury v Featherstone (7.45). **Second division:** Lancashire Lynx v Carlisle (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester v Birmingham (7.30). Chester v Thames Valley (8.0)

BOWLS: English indoor champion of champions (at Bembridge)

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare)

SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (at Cardiff)

SATURDAY

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Semi-final: St Helens v Salford (at Wigan, 2.30)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bristol v Sale, Gloucester v Leicester (2.15), Harlequins v West Hartlepool, Wasps v Orrell (at Sudbury). **Second division:** Blackheath v Nottingham; London Scottish v Coventry; Newcastle v Moseley; Rotherham v Bedford, Rugby v Richmond, Waterloo v Wakefield. **Third division:** Clifton v Exeter. Fylde v Wharfedale; Havant v Rosslyn Park, Liverpool St Helens v Reading, Lydney v London Welsh, Morley v Harrogate, Redruth v Leeds; Walsall v Otley. **Fourth division north:** Birmingham/Solihull v Preston Grasshoppers, Kendal v Sandal, Manchester v Hereford, Nuneaton v Sheffield; Stoke-on-Trent v Aspatria; Stourbridge v Lichfield, Worcester v Winnington Park. **Fourth division south:** Askeans v Camberley; Barking v Henley; Berry Hill v Weston-super-Mare; Charlton Park v Metropolitan Police; High Wycombe v Cheltenham; Newbury v North Walsham, Plymouth v Tabard

SWALEC CUP: Quarter-finals: Cardiff v South Wales Police (2.30), Ebbw Vale v Bridgend (2.30), Llanelli v Pontypool (2.30), Neath v Swansea (2.30)

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Newbridge v Treorchy (2.30). **Second division:** Aberavon v Abercynon (2.30), Bonymaen v Abertillery (2.30), Maesteg v Ystradgynlais (2.30), Cardiff Institute v Cross Keys (2.30)

INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE: First division: Ballymena v Garryowen (2.30); Cork Constitution v Blackrock College (2.30); Instonians v Dungannon (2.30); Lansdowne v Old Wesley (2.30), Old Crescent v Young Munster (2.30), Shannon v Terenure College (2.30), St Mary's College v Old Belvedere (2.30). **Second division:** Bective Rangers v Derry (2.30), Highfield v Wanderers (2.30), Monkstown v Dolphin (2.30); NIFC v Malone (2.30); Skerries v Greystones (2.30), Sunday's Well v Clontarf (2.30), UCC v DLSP (2.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Newcastle (6.0); Derby v Leicester (7.30); Hemel and Watford v London Towers (7.30); Worthing v Sheffield (8.0).

BOWLS: English indoor champion of champions (at Bembridge)

BOXING: British super-featherweight championship (vacant): Neil Swain (Wales) v Michael Brodie (Manchester); **Super-middleweight bout:** Joe Calzaghe (Wales) v Tyler Hughes (US) (at Wythenshawe Forum, Manchester).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague championship: Semi-finals: Ayr v Nottingham; Cardiff v Sheffield (at Nynex Arena, Manchester)

ROWING: Head of the River (Tideway).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare)

SQUASH: Interlink women's open (at Windsor)

SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (at Cardiff)

SUNDAY

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford v Wigan (6.35); Halifax v Sheffield (3.0). **First division:** Hull Kingston Rovers v Huddersfield (3.0), Keighley v Widnes (3.0), Swinton v Workington (3.0); Whitehaven v Hull (3.30). **Second division:** Barrow v Rochdale (3.0), Doncaster v Batley (3.0); Leigh v Bramley (3.0); York v Prescot (3.0).

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Ebbw Vale v Caerphilly (2.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle v Thames Valley (5.30), Sheffield v Crystal Palace (5.30), Leopards v Chester (6.30); London Towers v Derby (5.0)

BOWLS. English indoor champion of champions (at Bembridge)

MOTOR SPORT: British Formula Three Championship (at Donington Park)

ROWING: Women's University Boat Race (Henley)

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare).

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Eastbourne v Ipswich (3.30), Swindon v Bradford (6.0)

SQUASH: Interlink women's open (at Windsor)

SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (at Cardiff)

This week's football, page 32

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	30	150	fair	varied	poor	fair	-3	15/2
(Decent snow available; spring skiing)								
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	25	150	good	varied	slushy	fair	4	16/3
(Good skiing on all but lowest runs, no queues)								
St Anton	35	230	slushy	heavy	slush	fair	12	16/3
(Varied conditions; sprinkling of new snow high up)								
CANADA								
Whistler	65	260	good	powder	good	fair	-2	16/3
(Fresh snow and good skiing; everything open)								
FRANCE								
Méribel	30	130	worn	heavy	slush	sun	12	14/3
(Mont Vallon and runs above 2,000 metres still OK)								
La Plagne	120	200	fair	spring	worn	sun	5	15/3
(North-facing slopes holding the best snow)								
Val d'Isère	80	200	good	varied	slushy	sun	4	14/3
(Conditions generally good; some slush/worn patches)								
ITALY								
Livigno	60	170	fair	crust	fair	fine	4	15/3
(Good snow and skiing above 2,000 metres, some slush)								
SWITZERLAND								
Verbier	30	180	fair	varied	slush	fair	1	15/3
(Some new snow at altitude, good skiing available)								
Wengen	0	70	fair	spring	closed	fair	4	15/3
(Highest pistes still enjoyable; spring snow)								
UNITED STATES								
Vail	180	205	good	varied	fair	fine	-4	9/3
(Good spring skiing on most trails)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

[illegible]

Olympic triumph nine years ago paves way for growth of sport

Hockey hopefuls seize chance as clubs open doors

NE growing development in hool sport in recent years is been the close involvement of clubs. In many activies, clubs now provide the cilities, coaching and, most nportant of all, the higher andards to encourage oungsters to fulfil their otential.

Hockey is typical. Many of ie schoolboys taking part in ie under-16 and under-18 ome nations tournament, ponsored by the Centenary lub at Milton Keynes during ie past three days, have ttended sessions at leading lubs. This helps to improve heir skills and offers a athway to the adult game.

As Martin Rodgers, the bach to the England under-18 am, said: "After the boom of ie 1988 Olympic success, a lot l clubs began junior sections. his meant that we have had iore players who were not om independent schools. In ddition, some boys have been laying hockey at both schools nd clubs."

Three members of the England under-16 team who took ie title yesterday with three ins and a goal difference of 7-4, practice at Beeston in lottinghamshire and also at heir schools. However, few chools play hockey during oth winter terms and so the oys attend club sessions egularly.

Andrew West, the England aptain and central midfield layer, is at Rugby, where, aturally, the sport that the chool invented, dominates ie first winter term. West's iother takes him to Beeston nce a week for hockey ractice. This term, hockey is a port option at Rugby so this iove is not necessary.

West captains the under-16 school A team from scrum half, and says: "All my mates are in the rugby team. However, I think I should concentrate on hockey if I am to go any further." In which case, he will attend more club sessions next winter.

West certainly demonstrated rare talent yesterday in a tournament that 20 years ago produced Richard Dodds, Sean Kerly and Richard Leman, all members of the 1988 Olympic gold medal team. Graham Burgess, the England under-16 coach since 1989, said of West: "He leads by example. He is a superb distributor of the ball."

West will lead England into the Six Nations Tournament in Cologne on March 26. England last year finished third to Holland and Germany, only losing first place on goal difference.

Burgess, who teaches at Bablake School, Coventry, believes this team is better than last year's squad and it easily defeated Germany last October. "However, often when you think you have caught up with Germany or Holland, the goalposts have moved again," he said. "They are so good in individual skills. However, they also envy our spirit; it is the one thing they wish they had."

He was pleased with the passing in this tournament. "We ran some beautiful patterns up front. Simon Lanyon is so determined to score goals and Phillip Sully is so subtle." Sully, of West Bridgford, also attends the Beeston club, while Lanyon, who scored a hat-trick against Ireland in the 6-3 victory yesterday, plays for the ISCA club in Devon while attending Exeter school.

Rodgers correctly forecast the difficulties of the under-18s' final game against Ireland. "They often 'function' their way through the first two games but against England they make it a World Cup final. It's their big game of the year whereas we always have the Six Nations Tournament afterwards."

Ireland had a 1-0 half-time lead, but goals from Jon Bleby, another ISCA player, put England ahead. Ireland equalised through Gary McKee only for England to make sure of the title when a superb solo dribble by Peter Wiles, using his reverse stick, allowed Paul Wicken to score.

Haberdashers' triumph outright

HABERDASHERS' Aske's, Elstree, won the national schoolgirls lacrosse championship outright after sharing the title for three years when they beat St Helen's School, Northwood, 3-1 in the final at Milton Keynes on Saturday.

Queen Anne's, Caversham, who shared the title last year, pressed them in the semi-final, losing 1-0 in extra time.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Young hopefuls: action from the England v Ireland under-16 match

Clubs fail to take stock of Bosman ruling

The initial shock of the Bosman ruling, which permits out-of-contract footballers to move on free transfers across the European Union (EU), has abated. At the time, in December 1995, some doom-mongers predicted a collapse of large parts of the game as the smaller clubs became deprived of transfer fees, often the mainstay of their income, but most clubs are continuing to survive, if not exactly prosper, in the post-Bosman age.

The City, however, is taking a second look at the Bosman ruling, and is not quite so convinced that all the problems created by the case have been resolved.

The share prices of the quoted football clubs have fallen away in the past few months and only partly from a natural waning of buying enthusiasm after the arrival of new clubs on the market. Concerns over potential earnings from television and the impact of Bosman on costs and income at the clubs have added to the cloud over the market.

It is still probably three years before the British game truly gets to grip with the Bosman judgment. The Football Association is not expected to implement its plan to introduce freedom of movement within the domestic market for out-of-contract players who are over the age of 24 until 1998. The City is nervous about the consequences of this latest change and there will still remain the danger that another player might seek to invalidate the new regulations in the courts.

'What is worrying the City is that costs will soar out of control'

The immediate impact of the Bosman ruling has been the influx of foreign players. Although not all the players have arrived as free agents, there has been a distinct shift in the cost of players, away from transfer fees and towards higher wages.

What is worrying the City is that wage inflation may get out of hand and costs at the clubs soar out of control. Some experts have predicted that a decline in transfer fees will compensate for the rise in wages, and that overall costs will not change, but Alan Sugar, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, is more sceptical, warning that clubs are allowing wages and transfer fees to rise so steeply that, even when the new contract regulations are fully enforced, the clubs will face a higher cost base.

The second Bosman-related issue that has been worrying the City is the practice of adding the value of players to club's balance sheets. Players, who the accountants describe as "intangible assets", are clearly as important to the value of the club as other assets, such as the club's stadium.

Including the playing squad on the balance sheet has the potential of improving a club's financial position in two important ways. It strengthens the company's balance sheet and could lead to an increase in the perception of a club's value, and consequently its share price. City analysts use a variety of methods to assess a company's value, but comparing the total value of the club's assets to its share price is one of the most important.

Second, clubs could increase their borrowing levels by using the players' value as security against some of the loan.

Around 15 clubs at present include players on the balance sheet and the number seems to be increasing, but there is confusion, increased by the Bosman ruling, over exactly how players should be valued on the balance sheet. Clubs could simply employ the value of the transfer fees they paid for the players. Alternatively, they could try to make their own judgments on a player's value, based on the state of the transfer market, the player's age and contract. Even accountants are undecided on which method is most appropriate and it looks as though it will be a number of years before football finds a standard method.

However, Tottenham and Celtic have already decided that the Bosman ruling seriously reduced the value of players on their balance sheets. Tottenham knocked £7.3 million off its balance sheet in its last set of results, effectively halving its reported profits, while Celtic wrote off £2.2 million.

Football is new to the stock market and the City is still unsure of quite how to value the clubs that have floated. The Bosman ruling is clouding the issue further and, until the full effects become clear in a few years, football stocks are likely to face a bumpy ride.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

NETBALL

Youngsters put faith in court action

By A CORRESPONDENT

WO miles separate the Girls' Model and Our Lady of Mercy chools in north Belfast, but, some respects, they could be n different continents. One is rotestant and the other Catholic. Against this sectarian ivide, the schools have attempted to forge sporting nks, using netball as a prime neans of unification.

A setback occurred last September when paramilitaries ireatened to burn down the iutally local Ballysillan leiure centre if it was used by atholic schools including ur Lady, but the schools intinued to compete on each her's netball courts.

"We have always tried not to t the troubles interfere," Kate vine, a PE teacher at the lodel, said. "We are using port as a hope for the future. Ve are bringing together two opulations that are normally part to give them a chance to ave fun together."

This ecumenical initiative is eing championed by the ports Council for Northern reland, which has devised a rogramme whereby girls chools can select a sport and, hanks to Sports Council experts, achieve proficiency. Netball proves a particularly popular choice.

Eamonn McCartan, the chief executive of the Sports Council, said: "Most young people in Northern Ireland want to play sport, but the structures do not exist to enable those other than the most talented to do so."

At grass-roots level, links with local primary schools are being fostered and, significantly, children from Catholic primary shcools are going to the Protestant Model for extra-curricular netball.

While encouraged by "friendly" games, Irvine remains cautious. Just four years ago inter-school netball was temporarily suspended. "There have been times when fear intruded," she said. "After he Shankhill bombing in 993, parents were afraid to let their children out."

Irvine liaises closely with Noreen McGreevy, her counterpart at Our Lady, a respected coach and umpire who officiated during the recent series between England and Trinidad and Tobago.

"Noreen and I see each other regularly," Irvine said, "and some of the girls who have played netball against each other are now socialising together. Considering the obstacles, that is something."

Bad memories return in waves

Care bears and sore heads add to the challenge confronting **Lucy Duncan**

We are now, without doubt, back to the Southern Ocean with a vengeance. Having had a couple of warm, sunny days sailing out of Sydney, *Concert* continued to head south towards the colder climes, only to find a windless hole. This was not what we have come to expect of these latitudes and it well and truly messed up our position on this fourth leg of the BT Global Challenge. However, the wind is back now and we are in the middle of our third gale, slowly working our way towards the front of the fleet.

The third storm is proving more lively than the other two. The waves are some of the biggest we have seen — huge rolling cliffs picking up the boat in one of two ways. If the helmsman gets it right, it is a lovely gliding motion over the crest, like the best of roller-coaster rides.

If, however, the wave cannot be seen, or is at the wrong angle, *Concert* is left suspended in mid-air until she comes to rest with a sickening thud on the other side. Anything that is not tied down in the galley usually takes off when the boat lands.

I am writing this during a slack period on one of my days as "care bear". On most yachts this is described as "mother watch", but this was not acceptable to the more politically correct among *Concert's* crew. A day as "care bear" comes round about once a week and consists of cooking and cleaning for the rest of the crew.

This is straightforward enough until you add a continually moving galley and food that you are more likely to end up wearing than serving. There are also various unguided missiles to dodge, usually packets of food that are not stored as securely as they might be. The sea temperature can be guaged by how numb your fingers feel at the end of the washing up.

There is a fine art to being a "care bear". The timing of meals is vital. If you wake the off-watch team too early and the meal is not ready, you may find your fellow crew members sitting stony-faced, mourning their lost five minutes of sleep, while you get flustered trying to pretend that everything is ready.

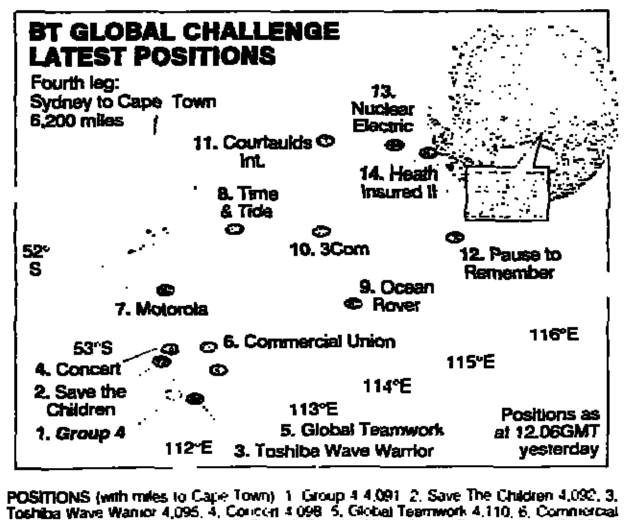
Too late is even worse as people pointedly refuse much-wanted second helpings because of the lack of time before going on deck. What is worse is that you find yourself, the next day, submitting the new "care bear" to exactly the same treatment.

Being on deck late is a heinous crime, second only to eating someone else's night-time chocolate snack. In these conditions, being late on deck means that someone else has to stay wet and cold for five minutes longer. Being late on watch was described by one crew member as that "late-for-work feeling". Quite an apt description, though it is probably slightly worse.

I am sure I have mentioned before my doubts about our collective sanity. To have been to the Southern Ocean relatively recently and then voluntarily returned has to raise some doubts. Short term memory-loss plays quite a large part — I do not remember it being this bumpy, cold and wet.

As always, though, there are compensations. Last night we had our first sight of the Southern Lights. The sky was ablaze with searching, constantly moving rays. It was a spectacular sight and almost made coming here worth it. Seeing these lights in the middle of nowhere made them all the more spectacular, but also emphasised our isolation.

There is no sense of time in the Southern Ocean. It does not matter if it is Monday or Thursday. The passing of time is only marked by the ticking over of figures in the "miles to go" section of our instrument display. At the moment it still reads in the thousands. Cape Town is an awfully long way away.



POSITIONS (with miles to Cape Town): 1, Group 4 4,091. 2, Save The Children 4,092. 3, Toshiba Wave Warrior 4,095. 4, Concert 4,098. 5, Global Teamwork 4,110. 6, Commercial Union 4,114. 7, Motorola 4,116. 8, Time & Tide 4,160. 9, Ocean Rover 4,177. 10, 3Com 4,188. 11, Courtaulds International 4,215. 12, Pause To Remember 4,232. 13, Nuclear Electric 4,242. 14, Heath Insured II 4,253

SPEEDWAY

Bellevue attracts big names

By TONY HOARE

JOHN PERRIN, the Bellevue promoter, says that 1997 will be a make-or-break season for the famous Manchester club after a spending spree attracted the signings of Billy Hamill, the world champion, and Sam Ermolenko, the champion in 1993.

The Aces, who have raced at Bellevue greyhound stadium since the demolition of their hallowed Hyde Road home in 1988, have gambled on an increase in attendances, which have been dwindling during the past couple of years.

"We have put a very good team together and, if the fans don't support speedway here this year, they will need a lower level of racing," Perrin said yesterday. "I don't want to promote at a lower level, so someone else will probably have to do it."

Perrin also wants some silverware for Aces' trophy cabinet, which has had no new additions since the 1993 first division championship. "The team has been put together to win something this season and I will be very disappointed if we don't," he said.

Chris Manchester, the No 1 in 1996, who has dropped down with the arrival of Hamill and Ermolenko, is predicting success. "If we all play our part, and there is nothing to say that we cannot, we will slaughter everybody," he said. "I don't think there is a team that will come close to us."

King's Lynn, the East Anglian club, has its sights set on more pressing matters this week as it struggles to open its doors in time for the season. Keith Chapman, the Lynn promoter, last week finalised negotiations to buy the club's Saddlebow Road home, which was unused last year after the club went into receivership at the end of 1995.

Chapman faces a race against time to win a health and safety certificate for the ground before their season begins on April 9.

In an effort to end the club's run of bad luck, Chapman has switched racing night to Wednesday. He also has changed the team's name to the Knights and introduced new riding colours.

The season started brightly for Coventry on Saturday. A large home crowd watched a 51-45 win over Swindon in their opening group match of the Speedway Star Cup.

Photograph, page 39

CYCLING

A labour of love for victorious Boardman

CHRIS BOARDMAN'S return to his first British love — time-trials — ended yesterday as it should have done, when he won the Porthole grand prix, a race against the clock around Lake Windermere (Peter Bryan writes). His victory highlighted the difference in standards between an established Continental professional and the dedicated enthusiasm of the home-based rider.

Boardman used the event almost as a training ride, before his return to France later this week to defend his 1996 success in the French two-day Criterium International. That is not to suggest that the Windermere trial was not important to him; it was, if only to give an indication of his progress in a steady build-up for the Tour de France, when he is expected to be the Gan team leader.

He started yesterday last man off in the 120-entry on a course that had been shortened from its customary 25.5 miles to 21.2 miles because of the introduction of a set of traffic lights. His winning time of 45min 02sec set a record for the course and established a clear margin of 2min 59sec over Stuart Dangerfield, of Wolverhampton, who, with five miles to go, pulled back a deficit of five seconds on Gethin Butler to finish second.

☐ Laurent Jalabert, of France, repeated last year's victory when he won the Paris-Nice race yesterday by one minute from Laurent Dufaux, of Switzerland, although finishing seventh in the final 19.5km time trial stage.

BOWLS

New blood provides England inspiration

AFTER England's success last week in the men's home international series at Ballymoney, there are high hopes of an England double this week, at the women's British Isles championships and team series in Perth (David Rhys Jones writes).

Peter Brimble, the England team manager, has been explaining how his team prised the Hilton Trophy from Scotland's grasp after Scotland had dominated the British bowls scene for six years.

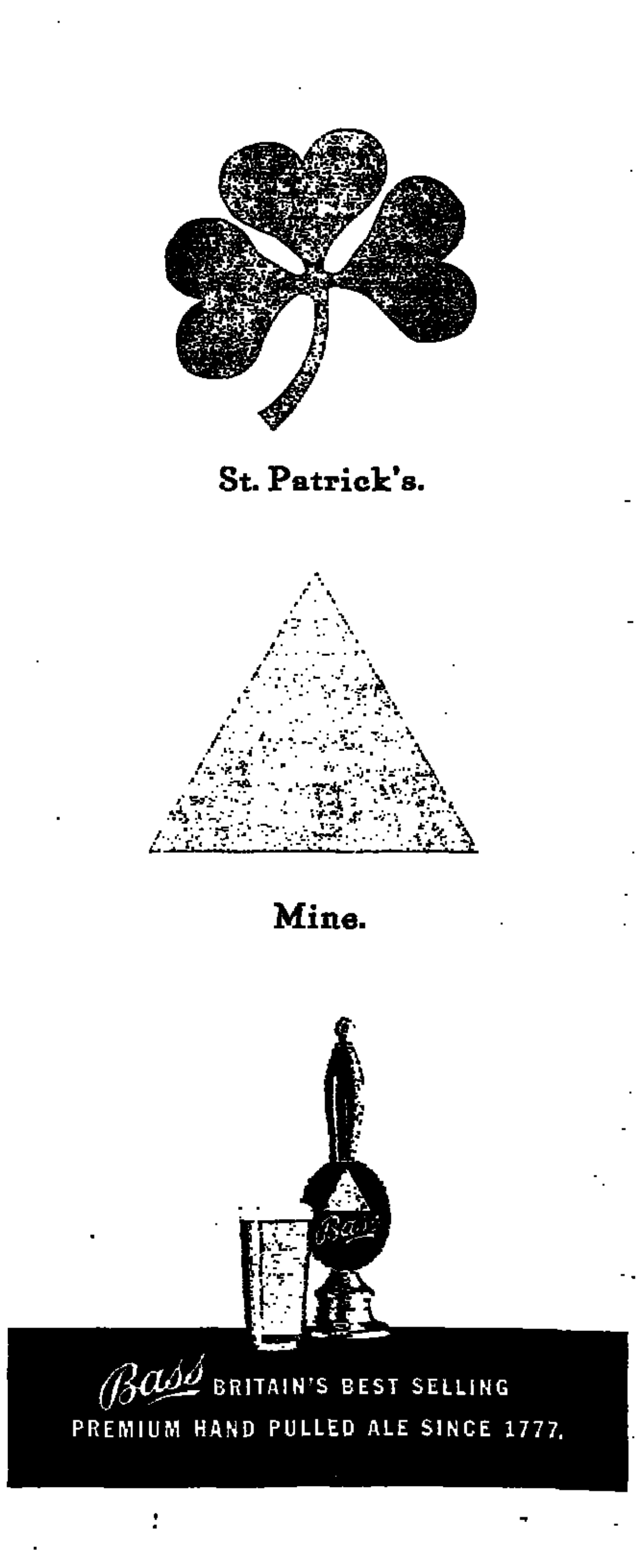
"We made several changes, introducing five newcomers and recalling Gary R. Smith to take John Bell's place at skip," Brimble said. "We also broke with tradition to appoint a team captain on the green, and Tony Allcock responded magnificently."

Allcock, the world outdoor singles champion, who has appeared stale in previous series, seemed revitalised by a double challenge: as captain, he had to inspire a side accustomed to failure: as skip, he had to encourage three young men who were making their international debuts.

Brimble's brand of aggressive management, criticised recently by the deposed Bell, was tempered by Allcock's more egalitarian approach.

The result? England won the title for the first time since 1990, and conferred upon Scotland the wooden spoon — a bonus that brought a mischievous glint to Brimble's eye.

Tomorrow, at Perth, England's women launch the defence of the team title, but first, the champions of the four home countries compete today for the four British titles.


St. Patrick's.
Mine.
Bass BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING PREMIUM HAND PULLED ALE SINCE 1777.

RACING: LEADING JOCKEY SUFFERS SUSPECTED BROKEN WRIST AT LEOPARDSTOWN

Williamson injured in Ireland

By our Irish Racing Correspondent

NORMAN WILLIAMSON was taken to hospital yesterday after a heavy fall at Leopardstown which left him with a suspected broken right wrist.

Walter Halley, the Irish Turf Club medical officer who attended Williamson at the racecourse, said: "He was initially unconscious, but had come round when I got down to the fence.

"He has a suspected fractured right wrist and lacerations over his right eye, and is likely to be out of action for six weeks to two months."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: DON'T TELL TOM
(2.30 Newcastle)
Next best: Abbey Lamp
(4.35 Newcastle)

ED BYRNE

Seven Towers, left, jumps the last ditch alongside Lord Gyllene on his way to victory at Uttoxeter on Saturday

Riding Arctic Buck in a three-mile novice chase, Williamson was lying second when Arctic Buck came to grief at the eighth fence. When on the ground, Williamson was kicked by a number of the following horses and was taken to St Vincents Hospital in Dublin.

Tom Taaffe, the trainer of Arctic Buck, who subsequently had to be put down, said: "Norman looks to have broken his wrist and there is a lot of blood on his face from a cut on his forehead."

Williamson, who has been plagued by injury in the last two seasons, now looks likely to miss the Martell Grand National at Aintree on April 5.

Lord Gyllene remains on course for the National in spite of his emphatic defeat by Seven Towers in the Marston's Pedigree Midlands Grand National at Uttoxeter on Saturday.

The gelding's trainer, Steve Brookshaw, confirmed yesterday: "That is the plan. I have turned him out in a field this morning and he is quite sound and happy.

"I think he ran a good race. "I don't think you could knock him because to carry that much weight is asking a lot. He has 9st 13lb in the National. They all go to Aintree with an equal chance but he jumps well enough and we know he stays. I don't think any kind of ground will bother him and Tony Dobbin will ride again."

Dobbin partnered Go Ballistic into fourth behind Mr Mulligan in Thursday's Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup, and that gelding has now been promoted to 10-1 joint-favouritism alongside Lord Gyllene by Ladbrokes.

His place on Go Ballistic in the National is likely to be taken by Mick Fitzgerald, who rode the John O'Shea-trained eight-year-old to victory at Ascot last November.

O'Shea said: "Go Ballistic has come out of the Gold Cup in really good shape. We're giving him a little break, but he'll be back in work by the end of the week.

"I've never had a runner in the National before, but I think he'll handle the fences. He needs to be held up and hopefully Mick will give him as good a ride as he gave Rough Quest last year."

Coral reported good support for Go Ballistic over the weekend, cutting him to 12-1 from 14-1, while retaining Lord Gyllene as favourite at 9-1.

Tizzard on song with Quantock four-timer

Point-to-point
By Carl Evans

JOE TIZZARD'S hopes of a first Cheltenham Festival winner failed to materialise, but the 17-year-old was in top form at the **Quantock Staghounds'** meeting on Saturday.

His four winners were highlighted by another victory for The Bounder, who beat Riva by six lengths in the men's open. The gelding is referred to by trainer Colin Tizzard as "a fat little so-and-so who needs a race to keep in trim".

With that in mind, The Bounder will pursue the Grand Marnier Trophy given to the horse who achieves the most wins each season. His tally is now four, a figure matched by Just Charlie, who took the confined race under David Easterby at the **Holderness** fixture. Tizzard also won on Qualitair Memory, trained by his father, and Nearly An Eye and False Tail for Richard Barber.

It was quiet at the **New Forest Buckhounds'** meeting where a thin crowd was treated to the skills of championship contenders. Tim Mitchell, Jamie Jukes and Julian Pritchard. Mitchell went back to the head of the men's table with ten wins after a double on Stillmore Business and Apatura King, while Jukes also recorded two wins, on Wicked Imp and King Torus. They formed part of a treble for the trainer. Victor Dartnall, who took the men's open at the Western meeting with Butler John.

Saturday's results, page 39

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER
2.00 GOLDEN FIDDLE (nap)
2.30 Don't Tell Tom
3.00 Washakie
3.35 Woody Dare
4.05 Parklife
4.35 Abbey Lamp
5.05 Wynyard Knight

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs [illegible]) [illegible] [illegible]

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)

2.00 GREAT NORTH ROAD HANDICAP CHASE (£2,863: 3m) (7 runners)

1	11340-6	OVER THE STREAM 42 (D,F,G) (J Gordon) Miss M Milligan 11-10-[illegible]	T J Murphy
2	150-121	NORTHERN SQUIRE 11 (G,S) (Mrs M Dixon) J Jefferson 9-11-4	E Callaghan (3)
3	340232	RUSTIC AIR 27 (G,S) (Mrs S Sturges) J Fitzgerald 10-11-3	P Niven
4	F321-F5	STRONG SOUND 257 (CD,F,G,S) P Cheesbrough 10-10-1[illegible]	G F Ryan (5)
5	330202	GALE AHEAD 42 (D,F,G) (J Robson) G Moore 7-10-10	B Storey
6	113542	VICARIDGE 48 (C,F,G) (R Brewis) R Brewis 10-10-6	A Dobbin
7	22-6835	GOLDEN FIDDLE 37 (V,BF,S) (S Wilson) J Dixon 9-10-6	A Thornton

BETTING: 5-2 Northern Squire, 7-2 Rustic Air, 9-2 Gale Ahead, 5-1 Golden Fiddle, 7-1 Vicaridge, 8-1 [illegible]

1996: NINFA 8-11-4 A Dobbin (5-1) G Richards 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

NORTHERN SQUIRE beat Celtic Bay 1¾l in 4-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (3m 2f, soft). RUSTIC AIR 17l 2nd of 9 to Aljadeer in handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 4f, good). STRONG SOUND 24½l 5th of 8 to Nordic Sun in handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 4f, good). GALE AHEAD 4l 2nd of 5 to Celtic Silver in handicap chase at Newcastle (3m, good) with OVER STREAM (5lb better off) distant 6th. VICARI 10l 2nd of 7 to Maysphill in handicap chas Musselburgh (2m 4f, good to firm). GOLDEN DLE 47l 5th of 9 to Nicholas Plant in hand chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good to soft).
Selection: GALE AHEAD (nap)

2.30 TOWN MOOR SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,026: 2m 4f) (20 runners)

1	54-3312	HIGHLAND PARK 48 (D,F) (R Craggs) R Craggs 11-11-12	A Dobbin
2	F30454	DON'T FORGET CURTIS 18 (Leonard Curtis Partners) G Moore 5-11-10	J Callaghan
3	0-36P03	BARK'N'BITE 5 (B,G) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-3	P Niven
4	P 661-P4	KIRSTENBOSCH 11 (F,G) (Mrs B Lungo) L Lungo 10-11-3	W Dowling (7)
5	0-40660	DON'T TELL TOM 30 (J Wade) J Wade 7-11-3	S Taylor (5)
6	6F22-P-	RHYMING THOMAS 425 (J Adam) J Adam 9-11-0	T Reed
7	5-65442	IN A MOMENT 21 (S) (Mrs E Dresser) C Grant 6-10-10	A Thornton
8	00-3030	OVER STATED 42 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 7-10-10	G F Ryan (5)
9	FPU-	NO TAKERS 315P (F) (G Orchard) S Kettlewell 10-10-10	G Lee (3)
10	4U5216	YACHT CLUB 12 (D,F,G) (E Spencer) J Eyre 15-10-9	B Storey
11	033235	OAKBURY 10 (Transvale C C) Miss L Siddall 5-10-7	T Siddall (7)
12	P9-4300	DALUSMAN 33 (F) (S McMahon) F Murtagh 9-10-5	E Callaghan (3)
13	05662	JALMAID 45 (P Jackson) H Alexander 5-10-4	R McGrath (5)
14	003	RASCO 12 (E Smith) M Camacho 4-10-3	F Leahy (3)
15	4-4-0FP3	PERSIAN GRANGE 13 (D Pryde) D Lamb 7-10-2	J Burke
16	0324-0P	GREENFINCH 18 (V) (Jack The Lads) Mrs A Naughton 6-10-2	J Supple
17	50-3-000	NOSMO KING 11 (Mrs M Kendall) Mrs M Kendall 6-10-0	Mrs M Kendall
18	P53632	ARTHUR BEE 13 (Mrs C Bousfield) B Bousfield 10-10-0	C McCormack (7)
19	00-2550	DASHMAR 11 (D Scholey) Ms L Plater 10-10-0	M Moloney
20	4-4PP-P0	DOON RIDGE 98 (S) (A Pooley) Miss L Siddall 6-10-0	O Pears

Long handicap: Nosmo King 9-13, Arthur Bee 9-13, Dashmar 9-13, Doon Ridge 9-9

BETTING: 7-1 Oakbury, 5-1 In A Moment, Bark'n'bite, 10-1 Kirstenbosch, Highland Park, 12-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

HIGHLAND PARK 4l 2nd of 7 to Chester in handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (3m, good to firm). BARK'N'BITE 4¾l 3rd of 10 to Edward Seymour in selling handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110y, good). KIRSTENBOSCH 10½l 4th of 13 to Ifallelsefails in conditionals handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, heavy). IN A MOMENT ½l 2nd of 18 to Latin Leader in selling handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good) with BARK'N'BITE (4lb better off) 14l 8th. YACHT CLUB beat JALMAID better off) 1l in conditionals selling handicap hu at Catterick (2m 3f, good) with IN A MOMENT better off) 15l 4th. OAKBURY 5l 3rd of 8 to Sp Bridge in selling handicap hurdle at Market R (2m 1l 110y, good). PERSIAN GRANGE 14l 3r 8 to Persian Grange in novice hurdle at Kelso 6f 110y, good to soft)
Selection: HIGHLAND PARK

3.00 NORTHUMBERLAND HUSSARS HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,109: 3m) (8 runners)

1	10P0-01	HIGHLANDMAN 13 (CD,G) (Mrs H Fraser) J Haldane 11-11-13	Chris Wilson (7)
2	14FP-P4	LITTLE WENLOCK 17 (D,F,S) (Mrs D Gibson) 13-11-13	Mrs V Jackson (5)
3	21/23	DOUBLE COLLECT 14 (D,F,S) (Mrs M Rebori) Mrs M Rebori 11-11-10	A Rebori (7)
4	3-314	FINAL HOPE 15P (D,F,G,S) (R Tate) R Tate 9-11-10	Mrs F Needham (7)
5	32-3U	FREE TRANSFER 14 (F) (D Fairbairn) D Fairbairn 8-11-10	C Storey (5)
6	0R3665-	GATHERING TIME 335 (G,S) (Miss C Richardson) Mrs S Smith 11-11-10	A Birch (7)
7	414-2	PIPER O'DRUMMOND 16P (D,G,S) Miss P Robson 10-11-10	Miss P Robson (5)
8	1-113	WASHAKIE 16P (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 12-11-10	P Johnson (5)

BETTING: 3-1 Washakie, 7-2 Highlandman, 5-1 Double Collect, Piper O'Drummond, 7-1 Final Hope, 8-1 ot

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

HIGHLANDMAN beat Fearade ¾l in hunter chase at Leicester (3m, good). LITTLE WENLOCK 18½l 4th of 8 to Jigtime in hunter chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good to soft). DOUBLE COLLECT 31l 3rd of 11 to Sheremanan Mist in hunter chase at Doncaster (2m 3f, good to firm). FINAL HOPE 9l 4th of 9 to Cheeky Pot in point-to-point at Mordon (3m, good). FREE TRANSFER 19l 3rd to Howaymon in hu chase at Musselburgh (3m, good to soft) on completed outing. PIPER O'DRUMMOND ¾l of 9 to Misty Night in point-to-point at Corbr (good). WASHAKIE 22l 3rd in point-to-poir Corbridge (3m, good)
Selection: PIPER O'DRUMMOND

3.35 TOWN & COUNTRY NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,048: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1	6-21	BELLS WILL RING 16P (G) (T Hamilton) Mrs A Hamilton 7-12-7	T Scott (7)
2	62F2/P/	COUNT SURVEYOR 905 (T Beadle) T Beadle 10-12-7	A Parker (7)
3	P-005	DRUMCAIRN 9P (M Noble) P Forster 9-12-7	P Johnson (5)
4	P341-	EILID ANOIR 345P (F) (J Shearer) J Shearer 8-12-7	R Shiels (5)
5	16-3	GENERAL DELIGHT 16P (G) (Mrs A Wood) Mrs A Wood 10-12-7	D Wood (7)
6	21-43	LINDON RUN 16P (F) (T Donaldson) K Robson 8-12-7	R Morgan (7)
7	5PP-P	MASTER CROZINA 13 (F) (J Comforth) J Comforth 9-12-7	P Comforth (7)
8	12P-2	PENNINE VIEW 9P (F,G,S) (J Dixon) J Dixon 10-12-7	R Ford (5)
9	0/0FPP-5	TUMLIN OOT 13 (Mrs H Fraser) J Haldane 8-12-7	Chris Wilson (7)
10	6/00-543	UP FOR RANSOME 13 (Mrs A Naughton) Mrs A Naughton 8-12-7	G Sheridan (7)
11	P3-2	WOODY DARE 10 (P Needham) P Needham 7-12-7	R Thornton (5)
12	F5	CRUKIT RAINBOW 23P (Mrs S Walker) D Walker 6-12-2	M Bennison (7)

BETTING: 3-1 Bells Will Ring, 7-2 Woody Dare, 5-1 Eilid Anoir, 6-1 Pennine View, 7-1 General Delight, Lindon Run, 10-1 Count Surveyor, 14-1 others

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

BELLS WILL RING beat Alianne 7l in point-to-point at Corbridge (3m, good). EILID ANOIR beat Bellino distance in point-to-point at Alnwick (good to firm). PENNINE VIEW 1l 2nd to Marked Card in point-to-point at Dalston (good to soft). UP FOR RANSOME 6½l 3rd of 15 to Teeton Mill in hu chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110y, good). WOO DARE 21l 2nd to Dawn Blue in hunter chase at (2m 6f, soft).
Selection: BELLS WILL RING

4.05 NEWCASTLE CITY NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,040: 2m) (5 runners)

1	F/F02-41	SWIFT RIPOSTE 23 (D,G) (T Finch) P Monteith 6-11-12	A Dobbin
2	65/1116	BRAMBLES WAY 17 (B,D,F,G,S) (N Jones) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-8	P Niven
3	0-4	PARKLIFE 31F (K Middleton) P Haslam 5-11-4	M Foster
4	3U2P/	NINE PIPES 810 (Nine Pipes Racing) J Birkett 6-11-2	L O'Hara
5	P/0P0-	LUCKER 329 (G Moscrop) Mrs E Moscrop 10-11-0	K Johnson

BETTING: Evens Brambles Way, 6-4 Swift Riposte, 5-1 Parklife, 20-1 Lucker, 25-1 Nine Pipes

1996: RALLEGIO 7-11-7 G Cahill (3-1) P Monteith 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

SWIFT RIPOSTE beat Laughing Fontaine 9l in 8-runner maiden hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good). BRAMBLES WAY distant 6th of 8 to Marello in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good to soft). PARKLIFE 9¾l 4th of 16 to Share Options in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110y, goo firm). NINE PIPES 3l 2nd of 8 to Zamhares novice hurdle over course and distance (good) last completed outing, Nov 94
Selection: SWIFT RIPOSTE

4.35 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT NOVICES CHASE (£2,967: 3m) (5 runners)

1	0/4011	KALAJO 9 (F,S) (Lowflyers Club) B Mactaggart 7-12-2	B Storey
2	016P-65	ABBEY LAMP 34 (G) (Panther Racing) Miss L Russell 8-11-4	A Thornton
3	14-63	FERN LEADER 6 (BF,G,S) (R Ward) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-4	J Supple
4	0-006P3	SELDOM BUT SEVERE 23 (E Elliott) E Elliott 7-11-4	G F Ryan (5)
5	5P-6F42	STRONGALONG 23 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 7-11-4	A Dobbin

BETTING: Evens Kalajo, 9-4 Strongalong, 7-2 Fern Leader, 12-1 Seldom But Severe, Abbey Lamp

1996: PARSONS BOY 7-12-2 A Dobbin (11-2) G Richards 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

KALAJO beat Nicholas Plant 3½l in 6-runner novice chase at Ayr (3m 1f, soft). ABBEY LAMP distant 5th of 11 to Judicious Captain in novice chase at Ayr (3m 3f 110y, soft). FERN LEADER 8l 3rd of 12 to Nijway in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good to firm). STRONGALONG neck 2n of 11 to Mister Trick in novice handicap chase a Musselburgh (3m, good) with SELDOM BU SEVERE (3lb worse off) 6l 3rd.
Selection: KALAJO

5.05 NORTHUMBERLAND INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,215: 2m) (11 runners)

1	3-13	LORD PODGSKI 9 (D,G) (Mrs G Smyth) P Monteith 6-11-11	C McCormack (7)	–
2		GO NATIVE (T Hemmings) Mrs S Smith 5-11-4	R Wilkinson (7)	–
3		KIT SMARTIE (D Forster) D Forster 5-11-4	G F Ryan (5)	–
4		MILLSTONE HILL (A Eubank) M Barnes 5-11-4	S Taylor	–
5		RISING MILL (Miss R Brewis) R Brewis 6-11-4	Mr A Robson	–
6		RUNHIM (J Berry) J Oliver 5-11-4	S Melrose (7)	–
7	3R	WYNYARD KNIGHT 16 (BF) (J Hall) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4	G Lee (3)	–
8	01	LANDLER 16 (D,G) (Bradlor Developments) J Norton 4-11-3	Mr R Thornton (5)	–
9		MERRY MAJOR (Mrs F Walton) T Barron 4-10-10	R McGrath (5)	–
10		POLAR KING (I Bray) C Thornton 4-10-10	N Horrocks (7)	–
11		SALMON CELLAR (C Graham) J Jefferson 4-10-10	E Callaghan (3)	–

BETTING: 11-4 Wynyard Knight, 3-1 Lord Podgski, 7-2 Landler, 5-1 Polar King, 14-1 Millstone Hill, Salmon Cellar, Merry Major, 20-1 others

1996: SIOUX TO SPEAK 4-10-1 N Horrocks (100-30) C Thornton 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

LORD PODGSKI 12l 3rd of 9 to Castle Clear in National Hunt flat race at Ayr (2m, soft). LANDLER beat Carlingford Tyke 1l in 13-runner National Hunt flat race at Doncaster (2m 110y, good) where WYNYARD KNIGHT ran out. Previously WYNYARD KNIGHT 1½l 2nd of 16 to Phar Smoother in National Hunt Flat race at Wetherby (2m good)
Selection: WYNYARD KNIGHT

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER
2.10 Cutthroat Kid. 2.40 Brandy Cross. 3.10 Supreme Flyer. 3.45 Netherby Said. 4.15 Mister Trick. 4.45 Cambo.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 GARETHSON.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.10 BONUS DAY CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,994: 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

1	00F	PRIMITIVE LIGHT 37 A Smith 7-11-6	P Midgley (3)	–
2	15-3	CUTTHROAT KID 14 (V,BF,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-5	N Williamson	●
3	6252	CHUMMY'S SAGA 20 (B,F) L Lungo 7-11-1	R Supple	72
4	40-5	GAME DRIVE 101 K Morgan 5-11-1	W Fry	–
5	21/P	BALLET ROYAL 7 (G,S) H Manners 8-10-13	A Dowling (7)	–
6	0P	CHURCHWORTH 7 (B) Miss H Knight 6-10-13	J Culloty	–
7	0/0-	MAN OF WISLEY 15P S Campion 7-10-13	Gary Lyons	–
8	PRU0	WORLD WITHOUT END 14F (B,S) M Sowersby 8-10-13	D Parker	68
9	PF02	JUST SUPPOSEN 14 (F) B Rothwell 6-10-11	R Johnson	71
10	030	ESKIMO KISS 35 G Johnson Houghton 4-10-4	D Gallagher	66

4-6 Cutthroat Kid, 5-1 Chummy's Saga, 6-1 Just Supposen, 8-1 Ballet Royal, 10-1 Eskimo Kiss, 20-1 Game Drive, 25-1 others

2.40 ADDITIONAL MEETING NOVICES CHASE (£3,415: 2m 6f 110yd) (4)

1	-2FP	BRANDY CROSS 21 (G) J Johnson 8-11-2	N Williamson	93
2	0-P4	CLAVERHOUSE 10 (F,G) J Fitzgerald 8-11-2	R Garrity	71
3	323	GARETHSON 24 Miss H Knight 6-11-2	D Bridgwater	●
4	F-43	GORBY'S MYTH 10 (G) J Leigh 7-11-2	K Gaule	83

7-4 Brandy Cross, 5-2 Garethson, 11-4 Gorby's Myth, 3-1 Claverhouse

3.10 MORE OPPORTUNITIES NOVICES HURDLE (£2,306: 3m) (8)

1	61F0	RANGER SLOANE 7 (S) G Fierro 5-11-2	R Farrant	74
2	FFP5	DRY HILL LAD 24 (B) J Norton 6-10-10	Derek Byrne	77
3	000-	EDGE OF NIGHT 344F (G,S) J Leigh 8-10-10	K Gaule	--
4	0050	LARKSHILL 53 J Fitzgerald 6-10-10	W Dwan	74
5	6-23	SUPREME FLYER 52 K Bailey 7-10-10	J Osborne	●
6	0-00	COUNTER ATTACK 18 Miss A Embiricos 6-10-5	R Johnson	–
7	000-	OUR LAUGHTER 324 O Brennan 7-10-5	M Brennan	–
8	F345	SEPTEMBER BREEZE 18 K Morgan 6-10-5	N Williamson	90

6-4 Supreme Flyer, 4-1 Larkshill, 5-1 September Breeze, 6-1 others

3.45 TWO ENCLOSURE DAY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,079: 2m 4f) (4)

1	U203	LOCHNAGRAIN 16 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-10	N Williamson	95
2	1331	NETHERBY SAID 10 (C,D,F,G) P Beaumont 7-11-8	R Supple	●
3	-524	JASON'S BOY 13 (D,F,G,S) J Bradley 7-10-0	R Johnson	93
4	4255	JUKE BOX BILLY 51 (F,G) Mrs J Brown 9-10-0	J Culloty	95

4-7 Netherby Said, 5-2 Lochnagrain, 6-1 Jason's Boy, 10-1 Juke Box Billy

4.15 ANNUAL BOX HOLDERS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,144: 3m 1f) (5)

1	1F41	MISTER TRICK 23 (B,G) L Lungo 7-11-10	R Garrity	96
2	P61	PRIMITIVE PENNY 47 (F,G) Mrs D Haine 6-11-8	J F Titley	95
3	2UF1	GAELIC BLUE 10 (C,G) Mrs S Smith 7-11-5	R Guest	●
4	P023	RECORD LOVER 10 (F) M Chapman 7-10-9	W Worthington	98
5	0P4P	MILWAUKEE 12 (V) O Brennan 8-10-0	M Brennan	98

5-4 Mister Trick, 3-1 Gaelic Blue, 7-2 Primitive Penny, 9-2 Record Lover, 16-1 Milwaukee

4.45 EASTER MONDAY COMES NEXT HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,264: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

1	1230	ORDOG MOR 12 (F,G) M Meagher 8-11-10	Derek Byrne	93
2	-411	SUJUD 14F (D,F) Mrs J Brown 5-10-13	R Garrity	93
3	2202	DESERT FORCE 7 (F,G,S) G Fierro 8-10-13	R Farrant	●
4	F001	MAJOR YAASI 12 (B,G,S) J Glover 7-10-12	J Osborne	95
5	-F26	BRANCHER 53 (BF,F) J Norton 6-10-11	N Williamson	93
6	4301	SASSIVER 10 (CD,F,G) P Kelleway 7-10-11	K Gaule	93
7	0034	CAMBO 16 (D,F,G,S) M Banks 11-10-4	D Skyrme	95
8	P4P4	MOOBAKKR 10 (CD,F,G,S) K Morgan 6-10-1	X Aizpuru (7)	93
9	P6RP	CASTLEBAY LAD 29P (S) R Curtis 14-10-0	Mr M Appleby	–

9-4 Sassiver, 4-1 Desert Force, 9-2 Sujud, 7-1 Ordog Mor, Moobakkr, Major Yaasi, 8-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Kelleway, 4 winners from 11 runners, 36.4%; Miss H Knight, 10 from 29, 34.5%; K Bailey, 13 from 47, 27.7%; Mrs M Reveley, 23 from 93, 24.7%; P Beaumont, 11 from 54, 20.4%.

JOCKEYS: J Culloty, 6 winners from 19 rides, 31.6%; N Williamson, 17 from 67, 25.4%; J Titley, 6 from 24, 25.0%; D Bridgwater, 9 from 50, 18.0%; L Wyer, 19 from 110, 17.3%.

☐ Sound Man has been put down after an inoperable tendon injury. In 31 outings, the nine-year-old won 15 races, including the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown Park twice.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
2.20 Komlucky. 2.50 Jibereen. 3.20 Deep Water. 3.50 China Castle. 4.25 Ma Vielle Pouque. 4.55 David James' Girl. 5.25 Hoh Majestic.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.20 ST ANDREWS HANDICAP (Div I: £1,944: 6f) (15 runners)

101	0-13	NEEDLE MATCH 12 (D,G) J J O'Neill 4-9-10	W Ryan 5
102	522	AFAAN 54 R Marvin 4-9-6	T G McLaughlin 1
103	-155	BALLARD LADY 42 (CD,BF,G,S) J Wainwright 5-9-0	J Bramhill (5) 2
104	01-0	MURRAY'S MAZDA 59 (D,F,G,S) J Eyre 8-9-0	D Wright 4
105	0401	NAPOLEON STAR 21 (B,CD,F,G) S Bowring 6-8-12	S Webster 3
106	00-1	ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 12 (D,F,G,S) R McKellar 5-8-9	J McAuley (7) 13
107	046-	KOMLUCKY 107 (D,F,G) A Mulholland 5-8-6	G Faulkner (5) 6
108	500-	GINAS GIRL 181 D Shaw 4-8-3	J Fanning 10
109	6205	SOAKED 21 D Chapman 4-8-2	L Charnock 14
110	300-	KATIE KOMAITE 139 J Wilson 4-6-0	Angela Hartley (7) 12
111	3313	RING THE CHIEF 12 (C,G) M Usher 5-7-13	N Carlisle 7
112	-000	HERSHEBAR 21 (B,CD,G) Mrs V Aconley 7-7-10	M Deering 9
113	-503	TUTU SIXTYSIX 21 (F,G) E Incisa 6-7-10	Kim Tinkler 8
114	0-00	SEANCHAI 47 P Felgate 4-7-10	J Fowle (7) 11
115	4006	CHEERFUL GROOM 21 (F) D Shaw 6-7-10	R Ffrench (7) 15

6-1 Another Nightmare, 7-1 Afaan, Ring The Chief, 8-1 Ballard Lady, Napoleon Star, Needle Match, Soaked, 16-1 others

2.50 CARNOUSTIE CLAIMING STAKES (£2,398: 7f) (15)

201	2060	AWESOME VENTURE 31 (CD,G,S) M Chapman 7-9-12	D R McCabe 11
202	1145	JIBEREEN 14 (CD,G,S) P Howling 5-9-12	S Whitworth 15
203	000-	BE WARNED 132 (V,CD,F,G) M Dods 6-9-8	A Clark 10
204	066-	NOBBY BARNES 158 (C,F,G) E Incisa 8-9-8	Kim Tinkler 8
205	-000	JUBILEE SCHOLAR 60 (B) K McAuliffe 4-9-7	J F Egan 13
206	3125	NORTHERN FAN 3 (C,BF,G) N Tinkler 5-9-6	D McKeown 12
207	-016	WALK THE BEAT 16 (C,F,G,S) M Meade 7-9-6	D Sweeney (5) 1
208	00-	WAHAB 104 R Marvin 4-9-5	T G McLaughlin 9
209	3036	BOGART 18 (V,D,G) C Fairhurst 6-9-4	R Cochrane 4
210	6040	DUNZO MARTIN 4 (CD,G) D Haydn Jones 9-9-4	S Drowne 7
211		DELLEN WALKER 10J J Wainwright 4-9-3	J Bramhill (5) 5
212		PERSIAN SUNSET 37J Miss J Bower 5-9-3	N Carlisle 2
213		RISKY LOVER D Shaw 4-9-2	J Fanning 6
214	3142	SEA DEVIL 21 (CD,BF,F,G,S) M Camacho 11-9-2	L Charnock 3
215	4513	FAST SPIN 24 (CD,BF,G) T Barron 3-8-4	Jo Hunnam (7) 14

3-1 Jibereen, 6-1 Northern Fan, 7-1 Fast Spin, Walk The Beat, 8-1 Awesome Venture, Bogart, Sea Devil, 12-1 others

3.20 MUIRFIELD MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,566: 1m) (10)

301		CAPTAIN SCOTT J Glover 9-0	G Carter 9
302	3-	DEEP WATER 153 P Cole 9-0	T Quinn 1
303	663-	ITALIAN SYMPHONY 160 M Johnston 9-0	K Darley 3
304	525-	LIGHTNING REBEL 130 C Thornton 9-0	D McKeown 5
305	00	PATRICK 38 D Burchell 9-0	N Carlisle 6
306		ROBBO C Thornton 9-0	L Charnock 10
307	5-	SIBOR STAR 264 D Burchell 9-0	S Drowne 7
308	30-0	WARRLIN 14 C Fairhurst 9-0	R Cochrane 2
309	06-0	BOUT 12 R McKellar 8-9	T Williams 4
310	600-	MAREMMA 151 E Incisa 8-9	Kim Tinkler 8

4-5 Deep Water, 6-1 Lightning Rebel, 8-1 Captain Scott, Italian Symphony, Warrlin, 12-1 Robbo, 14-1 others

3.55 GLENEAGLES HANDICAP (£6,098: 1m 4f) (8)

401	056-	RIVER KEEN 142 (D,F,G) R Armstrong 5-10-0	G Carter 1
402	31-1	LEADING SPIRIT 26 (D,F,G,S) C Wall 5-9-3	P Clarke (7) 7
403	1243	CHINA CASTLE 12 (CD,G) P Haslam 4-9-1	P Goode (7) 4
404	4121	GREENSPAN 14 (CD,G) W Muir 5-8-6	A Clark 6
405	4220	NIKITA'S STAR 12 (C,D,F,G) D Murray Smith 4-8-5	D Harrison 8
406	00-0	EAGLE CANYON 47 (C,D,F,G) B Hanbury 4-8-3	A Daly (5) 2
407	660-	SWAN HUNTER 191 (G) D Cosgrove 4-8-1	J Quinn 3
408	-511	CALDER KING 20J (B,C,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-0	P Fessey (5) 5

5-4 Leading Spirit, 4-1 River Keen, 6-1 China Castle, Calder King, 7-1 Greenspan, 8-1 Nikita's Star, 10-1 others

4.25 SANDWICH SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,537: 5f) (9)

501	2313	IMPERIAL GARDEN 47 (D,BF,G) P Haslam 9-4	J Fortune 5
502	1515	CHILLING 9 (D,BF,G) N Tinkler 8-13	K Sked (7) 7
503	-244	LUNAR MUSIC 13 (D,F) M Meade 8-12	D Sweeney (5) 3
504	0-44	EJEER 21 M Channon 8-12	R Perham 8
505	4-50	HEVER GOLF STORMER 14 T Naughton 8-12	D Harrison 9
506	3-25	THREEPLAY 13 J Akehurst 8-12	M Tebbutt 2
507	3350	MA VIELLE POUQUE 13 G M Turner 8-7	T Sprake 6
508	604-	NEFERTITI 265 R Marvin 8-7	T G McLaughlin 1
509	00-5	WHAT'S THAT AMY 21 C Smith 8-7	Jo Hunnam (7) 4

11-4 Chilling, 7-2 Imperial Garden, 4-1 Lunar Music, 9-2 Threeplay, 6-1 Ma Vielle Pouque, 8-1 Ejeer, 12-1 Hever Golf Stormer, 16-1 others

4.55 TROON APPRENTICES FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,294: 1m) (11)

601	-320	CATS BOTTOM 56 (CD,BF,F,G) A Newcombe 5-9-10	M Batchelor 8
602	2021	BROUGHTON'S PRIDE 21 (CD,F,G) J Eyre 6-9-10	G Wright (5) 9
603	100-	NICOLA'S PRINCESS 133 (D,G) B McMahon 4-9-9	S Righton 5
604	-034	DAVID JAMES' GIRL 3 (CD,G,S) A Bailey 5-9-3	R Studholme 3
605	046-	YUPPY GIRL 119 J Wilson 4-9-1	Angela Hartley (5) 6
606	-430	GIDDY 31 (CD,G) J Hetherton 4-9-0	C Lowther 4
607	0P61	JILLY BEVELED 24 (D,G) Ronald Thompson 5-8-8	R Cody-Boutcher 7
608	-331	GOLD LINING 24 (D,G) E Alston 4-8-6	J Fowle 11
609	000-	LOMOND LASSIE 37J T Kersey 4-8-4	P Clarke 10
610	5635	EFIPETITE 28 (CD,G) N Bycroft 4-8-3	A McCarthy 2
611	-253	QUEENS STROLLER 25 (C,G) R Peacock 6-8-2	R Brisland 1

5-2 Broughton's Pride, 5-1 Jilly Beveled, 6-1 Gold Lining, 7-1 Efipetite, 8-1 David James' Girl, Cats Bottom, Queens Stroller, 12-1 others

5.25 ST ANDREWS HANDICAP (Div II: £1,944: 6f) (15)

1	-401	TAKHLID 12 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 6-10-0	A Culhane 9
2	5016	BOLD ARISTOCRAT 2 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 6-9-13	F Lynch (3) 7
3	0/0-	RYMER'S RASCAL 343 (D,S) E Alston 5-9-6	J Fortune 5
4	5922	HOH MAJESTIC 2 (V,F,G) Ronald Thompson 4-9-5	G Milligan (7) 8
5	-020	DELROB 24 (B,CD,F,G) D Haydn Jones 6-9-1	A Clark 2
6	6560	ANSWERS-TO-THOMAS 24 J Jefferson 4-8-13	D McKeown 4
7	3064	SWEET MATE 21 (B,CD,G) S Bowring 5-8-10	S Webster 1
8	-000	MONIS 35 (V,F) J Balding 6-8-5	S Drowne 12
9	640-	DASHING DANCER 108J D Shaw 6-8-4	J Fanning 10
10	2320	BLUE LUGANA 24 N Bycroft 5-8-2	J Quinn 3
11	14-0	ISLAND PRINCE 39 (B,D,G) N Callaghan 3-8-0	C Rutter 11
12	0016	MUSTANG 12 (B,BF,G) C Thornton 4-7-12	Dale Gibson 14
13	3052	ASTRAL INVADER 12 (D,F,S) M Saunders 5-7-11	R Ffrench (7) 15
14	0-00	GLORIA IMPERATOR 21 A Mulholland 4-7-10	N Adams 6
15	50-0	YOUNG BEN 21 (B) J Wainwright 5-7-10	J Bramhill (5) 13

9-2 Takhlid, 6-1 Bold Aristocrat, Mustang, 7-1 Blue Lugana, Astral Invader, 8-1 Hoh Majestic, 10-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 24 winners from 98 runners, 24.5%; D Murray-Smith, 3 from 13, 23.1%; M Johnston, 50 from 223, 22.4%; P Cole, 11 from 51, 21.6%; R Armstrong, 8 from 40, 20.0%; M Channon, 6 from 33, 18.2%.

JOCKEYS: T Quinn, 18 winners from 78 rides, 23.1%; K Fallon, 23 from 124, 18.5%; Jo Hunnam, 4 from 22, 18.2%; K Darley, 17 from 95, 17.9%; D Harrison, 23 from 140, 16.4%; R Cochrane, 22 from 149, 14.8%.

Blinkered first time

MARKET RASEN: 2.10 Churchworth. 4.15 Milwaukee. NEWCASTLE: 2.00 Golden Fiddle. 2.30 Bark'n'bite. SOUTHWELL: 2.50 Be Warned.

Cheltenham should stop Festival overcrowding

JACK WATERMAN

Racing Commentary

Before the memory of Cheltenham has vanished in the manner of the currently retreating comet in the night sky, it is pertinent to raise some questions which fly out behind the Festival like the cloud of particles following that spectacular heavenly body.

The racing, as always, was superb. There was, rightly, ecstatic coverage of the deeds of Make A Stand, Martha's Son, Mr Mulligan and others. But what no one reported from the privileged confines of the press room were the crush-and-push conditions which, in certain places, made an unseemly background to momentous racing events.

Here is an example: I had arranged to meet, on Tuesday, an annual member in the Arkle Bar. Even to get into this bar was the definition of the irresistible force meeting the immovable object. Outside, ankle-deep in discarded plastic beer containers, the scene was just as crowded and even more squalid. And the admission charge for this? Fifty pounds on the first two days and £60 on Thursday.

Nor was mine an isolated experience. A colleague who took a day off to go and see the Gold Cup, reported it a "deeply unpleasant experience". He tried, unsuccessfully, no fewer than five bars, both in Tattersalls and Members and was appalled at the overcrowding.

Yet Edward Gillespie, the managing director of Cheltenham, does not see it this way. He has been quoted as saying: "Figure-wise, it is great to have attracted so many people and yet, generally, there have been few problems with congestion and overcrowding." And when he kindly rang me back after my original call to him, he did not budge from this view.

He maintained that the Arkle Bar was a special case, with poor access and people "for some reason, stay in there all afternoon". Tuesday and Wednesday in general he thought were "comfortably full". Although he had received a long complaint from one lady who considered that Thursday in the Members was uncomfortable.

There will be, I think, plenty, apart from box-holders and patrons of the new panoramic restaurant, who would agree with that lady, and others who think that £50 or £60 admission constitutes a rip-off. Yet Gillespie sees his admission charges as a factor in keeping overcrowding *down*. He has no intention of imposing limits on ticket sales.

And this is where I believe Cheltenham is wrong. Essentially, it has an accountant-propelled marketing policy which is squeezing the utmost out of a captive public who will pay any price and endure unspeakable conditions in places because the racing is so good. This is not so, for example, at Aintree, Ascot and York, which all impose limits of one kind or another and hence run big meetings in a far more pleasant way. The time has surely come for Cheltenham to follow their example.

There was a record crowd of more than 60,000 last Thursday on Gold Cup day. That record is certain to be broken in future. Safety factors apart, this is bad news for racegoers, in particular the annual membership. The Cheltenham management should decide now to reverse its policies and make a belated start in putting public priorities ahead of profits on the balance sheet.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FIVE MEETINGS

Uttoxeter

Going: good, good to firm in places

12.45 (2m 5f ch) 1, **Tellicherry** (J Culloty, 6-1); 2, *Goldenswift* (3-1 fav); 3, *Koo's Promise* (25-1). 11 ran. Nk, 15l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £6.50; £2.00, £1.70, £9.00. DF: £8.90. Trio: £188.00. CSF: £22.88. Tricast: £386.07.

1.15 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Domappel** (T Kent, 7-2, Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Thursday Night (4-1); 3, Lord McMurrough (11-2). Edgemoor Prince 3-1 fav. 6 ran. NR: Jackson Flint. 3½l, 15l. Mrs J Cecil. Tote: £4.60; £2.50, £1.90. DF: £10.10. CSF: £16.44.

1.50 (4m 2f ch) 1, **Seven Towers** (P Niven, 4-1); 2, Lord Gyllene (5-2 fav); 3, Sister Stephanie (8-1). 10 ran. 7l, sh hd. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £5.20; £2.10, £1.90, £2.30. DF: £7.40. Trio: £22.60. CSF: £13.21. Tricast: £68.09.

2.25 (3m 2f ch) 1, **Judicious Captain** (Mr C Storey, 12-1); 2, *Foxtrot Romeo* (9-4 fav); 3, Mr Pickpocket (7-2). 8 ran. NR: Ivy House, Major Look. 12l, 5l. Mrs J Storey. Tote: £14.30; £3.00, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £19.10. Trio: £19.30. CSF: £33.97. Tricast: £96.37.

3.00 (2m 5f ch) 1, **Disco Des Mottes** (R Dunwoody, 11-8 fav); 2, Kenmore-Speed (13-2); 3, Over The Pole (9-1). 7 ran. 13l, 5l. G Richards. Tote: £2.20; £1.40, £2.00. DF: £5.10. CSF: £9.09.

3.30 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, **Winn's Pride** (S Wynne, 25-1); 2, Santella Boy (9-2); 3, Royal Piper (9-2). Bobby Grant 11-8 fav. 5 ran. 3l, 1¾l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £15.90; £3.20, £1.90. DF: £44.70. CSF: £111.10.

4.05 (2m hdle) 1, **Shekels** (G Bradley, 4-1); 2, Ranglikei (8-13 fav); 3, Fils De Cresson (20-1). 12 ran. 10l, 5l. C Brooks. Tote: £5.00; £1.80, £1.10, £6.20. DF: £3.20. Trio: £29.50. CSF: £6.51.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £7,613.19 carried forward to Southwell today)

Placepot: £216.70. Quadpot: £50.40.

Newcastle

2.15 1, **Far Ahead** (4-1); 2, Banker Count (5-1); 3, Gospel Song (7-2 fav). 21 ran. NR: Brumon, Quango.

2.50 1, **Crosshot** (5-2 jt-fav); 2, Blazing Dawn (4-1); 3, Grouse-N-Heather (5-2 jt-fav). 5 ran.

3.20 1, **Purevalue** (5-2); 2, Linlathen (2-1 fav); 3, Sudden Spin (10-1). 6 ran. NR: Moscow Hymn.

3.55 1, **Aljadeer** (7-4 fav); 2, Deep Decision (7-2); 3, Westwell Boy (3-1). 4 ran. NR: Strath Royal, Whispering Steel.

4.25 1, **Corston Joker** (20-1); 2, Brighter Shade (1-2 fav); 3, *Bold Account* (100-30). 6 ran. NR: Malta Man.

4.55 1, **Stan's Your Man** (8-1); 2, Mock Trial (7-2); 3, Shanavogh (4-1). Here Comes Herbie 2-1 fav (f). 7 ran. NR: Chopwell Drapes.

Hereford

2.20 1, **Hanging Grove** (15-2); 2, Proud Image (8-11 fav); 3, Sharp Thrill (8-1). 15 ran. NR: Espla.

2.55 1, **Scottish Bambi** (8-11 fav); 2, Monday Club (9-1); 3, Dr Rocket (4-1). 5 ran.

3.25 1, **Va Utu** (16-1); 2, Added Dimension (4-5 fav); 3, Schnozzle (4-1). 4 ran. NR: The Brewer.

4.00 1, **Penlea Lady** (7-1); 2, The Rum Mariner (5-1); 3, Chip'n run (4-1). Prince Of Verona 7-2 fav. 10 ran. NR: What A To Do.

4.30 1, **Kadari** (7-2); 2, Swing Quartet (11-10 fav); 3, Sovso (7-1). 5 ran.

5.00 1, **Quick Quote** (7-2); 2, Tenayestelign (7-2); 3, Relaxed Lad (25-1). Northern Singer 6-5 fav. 8 ran.

5.30 1, **Young Tess** (5-1 jt-fav); 2, Sammorello (7-1); 3, Copper Coil (13-2); 4, Brown Wren (11-1). Nodadante 5-1 jt-fav. 16 ran. NR: Browniscroft.

Lingfield Park

2.10 1, **Hangover** (5-4 fav); 2, Madam Rouc (50-1); 3, Faltesh (14-1). 6 ran.

2.40 1, **Ela Agapi Mou** (9-2); 2, Cheerful Aspect (7-4 jt-fav); 3, Splendid Thyne (7-4 jt-fav). 9 ran. NR: Eau De Cologne.

3.10 1, **Red Bean** (6-1); 2, Buckland Lad (4-5 fav); 3, *River Leven* (7-2). 4 ran. NR: Copper Cable.

3.45 1, **Tickerty's Gift** (11-4); 2, Spring To Glory (9-2); 3, Rachael's Owen (11-4). Sprintlayro 5-2 fav. 5 ran.

4.15 1, **Amber Spark** (3-1); 2, Normarango (11-4); 3, Debonair Dude (6-4 fav). 6 ran. NR: Romallio.

4.45 1, **Workingforpeanuts** (5-1); 2, Red Lighter (9-4 fav); 3, Shanagore Warrior (13-2). 10 ran. NR: Milmount, Ross Dancer.

5.15 1, **Quistaquay** (7-2); 2, Country House (2-1 fav); 3, Peace Initiative (11-2). 8 ran.

Wolverhampton

7.00 1, **Big Bang** (5-4 fav); 2, Zorba (11-4); 3, Windborn (12-1). 6 ran. NR: Crackerbox, Ronquista d'Or.

7.30 1, **English Invader** (6-5 fav); 2, Honestly (6-1); 3, Dr Edgar (6-1). 9 ran. NR: Sommersby.

8.00 1, **Random Kindness** (7-2); 2, Noufari (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Secret Service (9-4 jt-fav). 6 ran.

8.30 1, **Tinkerbell** (3-1); 2, Komasta (9-1); 3, Patina (5-1). Cold Steel 2-1 fav. 7 ran.

9.00 1, **Amy Leigh** (20-1); 2, Hoh Majestic (3-1 fav); 3, Little Ibnr (14-1). 13 ran.

9.30 1, **Angel Face** (10-1); 2, Chadleigh Lane (10-1); 3, Ethbaat (12-1). Suga Hawk 4-1 fav. 13 ran.

LEADERS OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	154	89	87	4	-27.69
Mrs M Reveley	72	53	36	1	-10.35
D Nicholson	71	60	48	5	-49.54
K Bailey	56	47	33	11	-22.23
P Hobbs	50	37	39	4	-86.87
G Richards	49	30	18	1	-24.67
P Nicholls	46	44	27	8	-63.45
N Twiston-Davies	41	41	22	6	-45.68
O Sherwood	40	28	23	8	-44.48
N Henderson	39	33	25	2	-77.79

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	143	105	69	11	-14.16
J Osborne	104	65	51	1	+53.07
R Dunwoody	82	72	51	2	-77.31
A Maguire	81	72	61	1	-103.75
R Johnson	73	51	64	2	-18.25
P Niven	72	47	36	1	+27.75
A Dobbin	66	47	42	3	-14.90
D Bridgwater	66	42	46	10	-19.80
N Williamson	65	51	51	2	-63.62
R Garrity	52	54	46	2	-102.36

SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Camacho, 5 winners from 10 runners, 50.0%; C Thornton, 3 from 9, 33.3%; S Kettlewell, 3 from 11, 27.3%; J Jefferson, 9 from 35, 25.7%; Mrs M Reveley, 36 from 158, 22.8%; J Fitzgerald, 13 from 65, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 41 winners from 144 rides, 28.5%; T Reed, 13 from 93, 14.0%; A Dobbin, 16 from 123, 13.0%; M Foster, 3 from 23, 13.0%; A Thornton, 5 from 43, 11.6%; B Storey, 13 from 130, 10.0%.

RAPIDE RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
MKT RASEN 101 201
NEWCASTLE 102 202
SOUTHWELL 103 203
IRISH 120 220
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168
[illegible]

Cornishman's historic victory to be relived 100 years on

Fitzsimmons still proving good box office

Roy Lipscombe on ancient American footage that is likely to provoke a bout of British nostalgia

Extraordinary film from the United States of the battle that made Bob Fitzsimmons Great Britain's first world heavyweight boxing champion 100 years ago today will be shown again in London for the first time this century to celebrate the historic victory.

The Cornishman triumphed over "Gentleman Jim" Corbett in Carson City, Nevada, on March 17, 1897, felling the former title-holder with his speciality, a withering blow to the solar plexus. The fourteenth-round knockout was recorded by the newly-invented movie camera, making Fitzsimmons a hero with many thousands of cinema patrons on both sides of the Atlantic.

Now the complete film will be seen again in England for the first time since its 19th-century premiere. The British Film Institute (BFI) is to screen it at the National Film Theatre on June 12 as part of an historic boxing evening.

Clyde Jeavons, of the BFI, said: "Unfortunately we could not arrange a March date to coincide with the actual event. However, it was a tremendous achievement by Fitzsimmons that should be celebrated. He made himself the world's first sporting film star in the process of taking the title."

> 'He made himself the world's first sporting film star'

The footage of the Fitzsimmons-Corbett fight was first shown by the Veriscope Company in New York on May 22, 1897. Shot on a trio of cameras, it had taken two months to process the film and build projection equipment. An announcer stood beside the screen providing a commentary. The film played to packed houses in Boston and Chicago for several weeks before being shown to an excited audience in London for the first time on September 27. By this time modifications had been made to improve the quality. Boxing promoters had also been quick to seize on the financial possibilities heralded by the flickering images.

A precious copy of the 1897 film is now owned by Bill Cayton, the president of Big Fight Inc in the United States and former joint-manager of Mike Tyson. He and his then partner, the late Jim Jacobs, had obtained it from an American boxing enthusiast. He has made it available to the BFI, where experts have helped in the painstaking process of restoring it to transmission quality.

"It was a difficult job getting the film back into shape," Cayton said. "It was just like trying to piece confetti together, but it was such an important event in boxing history that I felt it worthwhile."

A century after the bout Fitzsimmons remains the only Englishman to win the undisputed heavyweight title of the world. The last of a dozen children born to a Cornish mother and an Irish father in Helston, his family left for New Zealand when he was nine.

Weighing only 11st 3lb and standing a fraction under six feet, Fitzsimmons was the lightest man to take the championship, yet the chest and shoulders of a blacksmith, balanced on sparrow-thin legs, made him a formidable foe.

With his thinning red hair and freckles, "Ruby Bob" combined a numbing wallop with the ability to absorb brutal punishment. He had been close to defeat from Corbett's skilful early onslaught before stepping in with his lethal reply.

He had learnt his rugged trade first as a teenager in New Zealand, then at Iron Pot, a ramshackle Sydney arena. Failing to impress in Australia, he left in 1890 for the United States, where he quickly won the world middleweight championship from "Nonpareil" Jack Dempsey.

Keeping bigger company thereafter, by 1896 he had taught a lesson to so many true heavyweights, that he was matched with Peter Maher, an Irishman, for the vacant world championship, Corbett having relinquished the title in disgust when all attempts to find a suitable location for a meeting with Fitzsimmons failed. Arrangements were made to film the event in Langtry, Texas, but Fitzsimmons finished his man inside a round before the camera could roll.

Two years after beating the returning Corbett, Fitzsimmons defended his title against the giant James J. Jefferies at Coney Island. Jefferies won in 11 rounds, a feat he repeated when they met again in 1902. However, the Cornishman was still to win a third world championship, taking the newly created light-heavyweight title from George Gardner on points over 20 rounds when aged 40.

Although subsequently beaten for that title, Fitzsimmons was never challenged for his middleweight championship. He was still earning a living with his fists when well past 50 at the start of the Great War, a meeting with Jersey Bellew at Bethlehem being his last recorded contest.

Four times married, Fitzsimmons died of pneumonia in Chicago on October 22, 1917, aged 54. He is buried in the Graceland cemetery, close to Jack Johnson, another world heavyweight champion. The pair met in the ring in 1907 when the young American quickly flattened the fading Fitzsimmons.

Those who see the ancient film of his finest performance that March day so long ago should learn much about the Cornishman's fighting spirit. The prizefighter said to have coined the phrase "the bigger they are, the harder they fall" had so often proved his point when the gloves were on.

Fitzsimmons, the lightest man to win the heavyweight title, had the build of a blacksmith and was a formidable foe

SPORTS LETTERS

Cricket must come to market

From Mr Richard Cohen

Sir, Cricket must go "public" and start with all county members becoming real shareholders of a properly run and financially disciplined business. After decades of abysmal performances on and off the field, it is high time that proven leisure companies ran the show. What price, say, Granada or Manchester United taking over Lancashire County Cricket Club?

All those superfluous county chairmen, bloated committees, multiplying executives, and half the players would have to go. There is nothing to be gained by tinkering around with the present system, hoping for yet another "saviour" or "motivator" whose real talents have more in common with the music halls than cricket. It is these very people who have made such a telling contribution to the decline.

No more sinecures and jobs for the boys, and an end to the incestuous nature of most cricketing appointments. The apron string with Lord's must be cut and a national cricket ground built by the new brooms. Let us see 60,000 spectators at a tenner a time! We know, however, that the money from television, the lottery or grants will be frittered away to keep the old bankrupt system and the gravy train on the rails.

Yours etc.,
RICHARD COHEN,
Havilland Hill House,
Les Hubits de Haut,
St Martins, Guernsey.

Padding problem

From Mr Alistair Bruten

Sir, During the last two Rugby Lions matches I have watched, the game has been interrupted by the referee telling an opponent to remove his T-shirt with its integral shoulder padding. An England player received the same instruction during the game against France.

When Mark Mapletoft played the last 20 minutes of the England A international against France the previous night, he took the field with shoulders anyone in *Dynasty* would have died for.

I understand the players' concern for their well-being and expect that is foremost in their minds rather than the equation of missed matches meaning forfeited win bonuses.

I hope that referees can remove this interruption to the game by mentioning it in their pre-match visits to the dressing-rooms. Certainly there is no excuse for 29 players and the crowd to wait while the player adjusts his dress; let them stay off until the next time the ball is out of play.

The players know that this additional protection is not allowed: Rugby Lions display a big poster in the dressing-room area explaining that the RFU allows scrum caps and just about nothing else, and no doubt other clubs received this poster.

Extra protection must increase the risk of players damaging themselves and others if they feel they are more immune to injury. If more padding is allowed, the game will be moving along the path towards the crash-helmeted Dunlopillo man and the admiration of the spectator for the sheer bravery of rugby players will be sadly diminished.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR BRUTEN,
29 Lake Crescent,
Daventry, Northamptonshire.

Rowell's regret

From Mr Michael Gould

Sir, In opting for Rob Andrew's recall to the England squad for the international at Cardiff, Jack Rowell must surely have regretted not giving Alex King a chance in the three pre-Christmas matches.

Not only might England have beaten New Zealand Barbarians, but Rowell would have had some indication of whether King was ready for five nations' rugby. Does he need to be reminded how Mike Catt played in the three matches and that the use of King as a substitute on tactical grounds would have been more than justified?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GOULD,
2 High Street,
Midsomer Norton,
Bath,
Avon.

Well offside

From Mr Edward Grayson

Sir, Alasdair Murray (The Business of Sport, March 10) was yards offside of the facts when he wrote: "Sport is finding dealing with the courts especially tough." For more than a century courts have responded readily to anyone seeking or requiring remedies in the areas covered by sport itself.

The first traceable personal injuries award for sports-related injuries followed a collapsed grandstand at Cheltenham Race Week in 1866. It reached the courts in 1870 as *Francis v Cockrell* and was decided in line with principles developed progressively down the years.

Eight years later, in the first traceable criminal prosecution for a football field fatality, Lord Justice Bramwell in *Regina v Bradshaw* defined the criteria of deliberate and/or reckless misconduct, whether within or without the field of play, which have stood the test of time.

Bosman's European Court of Justice judgment in 1995 coincided in principle with George Eastham's High Court triumph in 1965, a year which initiated an earlier conspiracy corruption football court case, and countless court decisions have overturned governing bodies' denials of natural justice in the manner Mrs Justice Ebsworth could not avoid deciding against the Welsh Rugby Union earlier this month.

These are all merely sample illustrations of a wider historical tapestry in which the courts have had no problems when invoked with appropriate evidence and correct procedures.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
EDWARD GRAYSON,
President, British Association for Sport and Law,
9-12 Bell Yard, WC2.

Not forgotten

From Mr Gerald Curry

Sir, David Maddock (The Face of Football, March 8) wrote about the No 10 shirt at Middlesbrough made famous by Alan Foggon and John Hickton; but, long before Juninho or even Pelé, the No 10 shirt at England and Middlesbrough was worn by one of the world's greatest players, Wilf Mannion.

Dr Mannion (thanks to Teesside University), the first freeman of Redcar, remains a legend in his own lifetime and is a revered visitor to the Riverside Stadium.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD CURRY,
77 North Street,
Ripon, North Yorkshire.

Christie sets fine example

From Mr Reg Austin

Sir, I write to applaud one of your great sporting heroes. Linford Christie competed at the Botany Bay Gift Carnival of which I am the chairman. The event dates back to 1844 and is the oldest professional athletic carnival in Australia.

Christie competed on grass, gave substantial starts to other competent athletes, and thrilled crowds with his magnificent running.

We all know he is a magnificent athlete, but in our country he was regarded as an aloof, distant, almost arrogant, athlete. At Botany Bay he was the perfect gentleman who gave so much of himself to help me and our carnival.

After the final Christie set up a table and signed about a thousand autographs, had his photograph taken with innumerable people, and after an hour and a half walked 100 metres to have his photograph taken with a lad in a wheelchair.

I find it hard to put into words the enjoyment Christie gave to so many people and the patience he showed after competing. Darren Campbell also took part and was an absolute gentleman, while John Regis and Tony Campbell attended as spectators and spent considerable time signing autographs and having their photos taken with spectators.

As an Australian who has been a world veteran champion in the sprints for 20 years, I feel I have the background to understand the problems and frustrations of champion athletes.

I laud them and feel you and the British public should be very proud of them.

Yours faithfully,
REG AUSTIN,
Chairman,
Organising Committee,
The Botany Bay Gift,
PO Box 615,
Mascot 2020,
Australia.

Differing view

From Mr W. A. Frampton

Sir, In response to Mr Steven Dunkey and others (March 7), may I beg not to be one of the "all" who knew that the penalty was not a penalty in the FA Cup match between Chelsea and Leicester City. From my armchair position, I was convinced that the penalty was justly awarded. Mike Reed, the referee, did not have the advantage of my position nor the interminable replays of the incident.

At no time was the incident played from the referee's position on the field, nor was the position of the assistant referee referred to in an attempt to obtain a just outcome, or at least a balanced view, indicating how difficult it is to be a referee.

May I suggest a simpler solution than Mr Dunkey's: let us all — participants, officials, supporters, viewers, but most importantly commentators and reporters — accept that the decision of referees in matters pertaining to the game be accepted as honestly arrived at and impartially given. Then we may perhaps, in part, return the game out of the corrupting embrace of Mammon and back to the spirit of Corinthianism.

Yours faithfully,
BILL FRAMPTON,
Phoenix House, Denbigh Road,
Dinas Powis,
Vale of Glamorgan.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

North on the hand today was Ron von der Porten, the American expert. He received looks of scorn from West when he put down the dummy, but I think his bidding was correct.

Dealer South **Game all** **Rubber bridge**

♠ A J 10 2
♥ J 9
♦ J 6 2
♣ 7 5 4 2

♠ K 8 4
♥ K 7 4
♦ 10 9 8 3
♣ K 10 6

N
W E
S

♠ Q 9 6 3
♥ 8 5
♦ Q 7 5 4
♣ Q J 9

♠ 7 5
♥ A Q 10 6 3 2
♦ A K
♣ A 8 3

S	W	N	E
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
3H	Pass	4H	All Pass

Contract: Four Hearts by South Lead: Ten of diamonds

Many players make that jump to Three Hearts on inadequate values. After a response at the one level, you need to be a full ace better than a minimum opening bid, in addition to having a good six-card suit. It is clear for North to raise to Four Hearts — both the jack and nine of hearts are likely to be important cards in solidifying South's suit.

Dummy and East played low on the diamond lead and declarer won in hand. At trick two he led a spade and West was caught napping when he played low (according to von der Porten, it was because he was still expending his energy making sneering remarks about his raise — West thought Pass was right). Declarer played the ten from dummy and East won and returned the queen of clubs.

Now, how should declarer play? He has the choice of entering the dummy with the ace of spades and finessing the hearts, hoping that they are three-two with the king on side. Or he can finesse the jack of spades, hoping that West started with the king of spades and that a third round will stand up for a club discard. If West can be relied on to play low on the first round of spades, even if he has an honour, then finessing spades is better odds, and that is what the declarer did. So he made the contract. Notice, though, that West could have defeated it by playing the king of spades on the first round of the suit — now the defence can prevent the declarer from enjoying a second spade trick.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NEXAL
a. An armour necklet
b. A throw in wrestling
c. Slavery

PIASSABA
a. Coarse fibre
b. Italian trifle
c. A nun's wimple

NIMMING
a. Running down
b. Taking bribes
c. An Old English measure

PALKEE
a. Litter
b. Rice pudding
c. Pakistani old boy network

Answers on page 45

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Election fever

Election fever is well and truly upon us and I plan to continue until the big day itself with a series on world leaders, politicians and international diplomats who have demonstrated chess prowess. Last week I mentioned that Napoleon Bonaparte had tried his hand at chess. Tamberlaine, another would-have-been world conqueror, was also noted as a player.

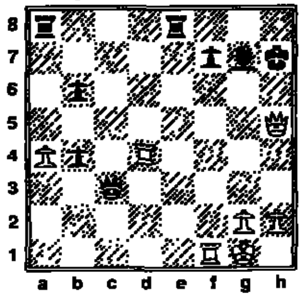
Continuing the theme, the games today are a win by an official from the German Embassy in London against Gligoric, the Yugoslav grandmaster, and a victory by Lord Winston from the Lords v Commons match.

White: Hans Heinrich Wrede
Black: Svetozar Gligoric
Simultaneous display, Essen, 1961

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	d6
6	Be2	a6
7	0-0	Nbd7
8	f4	Qc7
9	Be3	Be7
10	Qd2	0-0
11	a4	b6
12	Bf3	Bb7
13	f5	e5
14	Nde2	Nc5
15	Ng3	Rfd8
16	Rad1	d5
17	exd5	e4
18	Ngxe4	Ncxe4
19	Nxe4	Nxd5
20	c3	Nxe3
21	Qxe3	Re8
22	b4	a5
23	f6	Bf8
24	Rd4	axb4
25	fxg7	Bxg7
26	Qg5	Bxe4
27	Bxe4	Qxc3
28	Bxh7+	Kxh7
29	Qh5+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Lord Winston
Black: Michael Stern, MP
Lords v Commons, March 1997

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Bxc6	bxc6
5	0-0	d6
6	d3	h6
7	Be3	Be6
8	Nc3	Nf6
9	h3	g6
10	Re1	Bg7
11	Ne2	g5
12	c3	0-0
13	Ng3	Rb8
14	Rb1	Bxa2
15	Ra1	Bb3
16	Qd2	a5
17	Nf5	a4
18	h4	e6
19	Nxg7	Kxg7
20	hxg5	Ng4
21	gxh6+	Kh7
22	Ng5+	Kg6
23	Nh3	e5
24	f4	Nxe3
25	Rxe3	Qh4
26	fxe5	dxe5
27	Rf1	Bc6
28	Ref3	Kh5

White won on adjudication

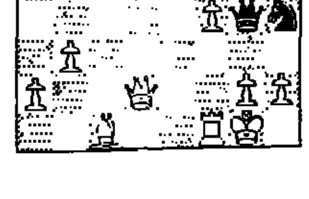
The final position, with Black a pawn down and his king exposed, was adjudicated as a win for White.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Euwe — Keres, world championship, 1948. Although Black is two pawns down, he has tremendously active pieces. How did he now make the most of his chances with a fine combination?



Solution on page 45

FENCING

Fletcher sees off Sach for second title

NICK FLETCHER won his second British sabre title in Bath on Saturday by beating David Sach 15-7 in the final (Graham Morrison writes).

Fletcher, who won the title in 1994 and now trains in London under Peter Frohlich, of Hungary, won his quarter-final with Robin Knight, of Colchester, by one hit (15-14) and was made to work for a 15-12 win over Steve Potts in his semi-final.

Sach unexpectedly defeated James Williams, the defending champion, in their semi-final 15-14, and must be in with a good chance of a medal at the forthcoming world junior championships in Tenerife.

The women's championship was won by Louise Bond-Williams, who beat Anna White 15-9 in the final.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

COMPANY NOTICES

QUEBEC CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY
Notice to Security Holders.
The Annual General Meeting of the Security Holders of Quebec Central Railway Company will be held in The Conference Room, Room [illegible], Windsor Station, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on Wednesday the [illegible] day of April 1997, at the hour of [illegible] o'clock in the forenoon for presentation of the financial statement, the election of two directors to represent the Security Holders of the Company until the next Annual General Meeting of the Company, the appointment of the auditor of the Company and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
[illegible], Secretary
Montreal, Quebec, February [illegible] 1997

LEGAL NOTICES

SIGNRAY LTD
(Company Voluntary Arrangement)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF on 20th March 1997 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in the Section 98 et seq. A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated this 11th March 1997
E J Marshall, Director

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 00969 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF SHEPHARD HILL CIVIL ENGINEERING LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 21st day of February 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named company from £5,000,000 to £1,772,000.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on 26th day of March 1997.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the Share Capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
DATED this 13th day of March 1997
EVERSHEDS
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4JL
Tel : 0171-919 4500
Fax : 0171-919 4919
Ref : AKW/JBR/40426/30
Solicitors for the above-named Company

No 834 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF ALFA SYSTEMS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

A Petition to Wind-Up the above-named Company of Central House, 32-66 High Street, Stratford, London presented on the 14th day of February 1997 by N.S. Hill and N.B. Khan of Messers. Coopers & Lybrand of Plumtree Court, London EC4A 4HT, the Joint Supervisors of the Company Voluntary Arrangement of the Company, will be heard at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 23rd April 1997 at 10.30am (or as soon thereafter as the Petition can be heard).
Any person intending to appear on the hearing of the Petition (whether to support or oppose it) must give notice of intention to do so to the Petitioners or their Solicitor in accordance with Rule 4.16 by 16.00 hours on Tuesday 22nd April 1997.

The Petitioners' Solicitor is Hill Taylor Dickinson of Irongate House, Duke's Place, London, EC3A 7LP Ref:BL/C00/5849/36
Dated this 17th day of March 1997.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
I, JOHN FRANCIS O'LOUGHLIN now residing at 8 Haven Lane, Ealing, London W5 2HN, having during the past six months carried on the trade or calling of Publican, and being a person interested in the premises described below do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply at the Transfer Sessions for the said Division to be held at The Courthouse, 850 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex on the 2nd day of April 1997 for the provisional grant to me of a Justices' Licence authorising me to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption On the premises about to be altered or extended for the purpose of being used as a house for the sale of intoxicating liquor situated at 37 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex and to be known by the sign of Jono's Bar & Restaurant, of which premises Cavendish-Woodhouse (Holdings) Limited are the owners.
DATED the 28th day of February 1997
Hodders of 11 Station Road, Harlesden, London NW10 4UD
Solicitors and Agents for the Applicant.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR
Name of Company: Montfort Press Limited
Nature of Business: Magazine Publishers
Address of Registered Office: Norham House, 12 New Bridge Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8AD
Liquidator's Name & Address: Roger Murray Griffiths Ernst & Young Norham House 12 New Bridge Street West Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8AD
Date of Appointment: 15 January 1997
By whom appointed: Members and Creditors
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
MONTFORT PRESS LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION
The creditors of the above named company are requested, on or before 9 May 1997 to send their names, addresses and particulars of their claims to the undersigned, the liquidator of the company, at Ernst & Young, Norham House, 12 New Bridge Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8AD.
Dated 3 March 1997
Roger Murray Griffiths
Liquidator

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171-481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

The disabled are as skilful at martial arts as the able-bodied, says **Victoria Walker**, who tried her hand at aikido

Equals on the field of combat

Disability has proved to be no handicap for the students of Terry Taylor's shotokan karate schools in Kent. Whether partially sighted, blind or confined to a wheelchair, all of his students perform different katas (choreographed set sequences of moves) with convincing poise and determination.

Dorton House, in Seal, Kent, is a school for students who are blind or partially sighted and caters from nursery age through to college education. Every Thursday evening Taylor runs an extra-curricular karate class. There are five boys in his club, aged from 11 to 14.

James Davison has all the awkwardness you would expect of any 14-year-old. Yet, when he performed a solo kata, he spun, kicked and chopped his way through the air with such confidence and grace that he seemed transformed.

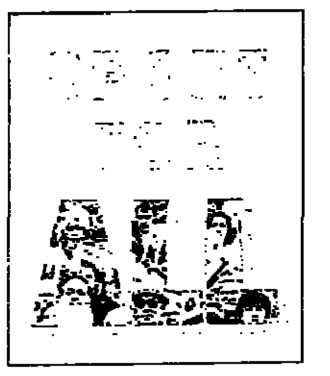
The enthusiasm exuded by the group was tangible. "I want to get to black belt in at least one form of martial art," Adam Izzard, 13, said.

Tracy Moses is ten and suffers from spina bifida and hydrocephalus. Despite this, she has been attending karate classes in Chatham, Kent, almost every Monday and Friday since joining the club in November.

Although she can walk unaided, she is learning the directional arm moves of karate katas in her wheelchair. She has to do physiotherapy classes once a week and already karate has helped her to improve her movement dramatically.

Scott Gillis, 13, maintains that karate has had a big impact on the way that he experiences life outside the dojo (karate classroom).

"I am getting better at looking forward rather than down, and keeping my balance," he said.



"If you are really good in some form of martial art, you are always going to feel ready, but, if you are just starting out, do not expect to turn into Bruce Lee or Jean-Claude Van Damme after just a few lessons. It is something you have to work at."

Recognising the benefits that martial arts can provide for people with disabilities, Taylor has founded an annual festival and an informal register.

The latter attempts to place individuals in touch with martial arts teachers in their areas and is achieved through Taylor's wide range of personal contacts throughout the country.

The festival this year will be held on May 15 in Gravesend, Kent. There will be eight disciplines on offer, which the public will be encouraged to sample and observe, with special demonstrations and displays.

Taylor estimates that there will be more than 300 disabled martial arts practitioners and their instructors taking part in the festival.

He enthuses over the benefits gained by anyone who practises any type of martial art.

"It is not only a wonderful way to keep fit, but it teaches valuable self-defence techniques, builds self-confidence and provides a whole bunch of new friends to socialise with," he said.

Joel Young, 11, agrees and said: "It is fun and it gives you something to aim for." Michael Miller, 11, has no illusions and said: "It is very difficult at the start." His favourite move is tobi geri — the flying kick.

Members of Taylor's clubs are part of a growing number of people with disabilities who practise martial arts. Simon Jackson, the Paralympic judo champion, won his third consecutive gold medal last summer in Atlanta.

Lydia Zijdel uses a wheelchair and took up aikido in 1985. She did not look back, taking up karate as a second discipline. In October 1990 she began teaching people with disabilities.

In his book, *Martial Arts for People With Disabilities*, Dirk Robinson maintains that many people living with a disability can match the prowess of any able-bodied person — and even surpass their skill.

At the end of the class at Dorton House, Taylor made all the boys sit crossed-legged on the floor around the room. Those who were partially sighted had to close their eyes. With the stealth of a ninja, Taylor then crept among them tapping them on their heads and shoulders. The object of the exercise was to try to grab him as he tried to make a tap.

Their success rate was impressively high and I realised that I had witnessed a degree of skill that I would be hard-pushed, if ever able, to match.

● *For more details, contact Terry Taylor at the Horsted Shotokan Karate Association, 6 Bulldog Road, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent, ME5 8SJ (01634 201469).*

ORIENTAL MARTIAL ARTS

KARATE means "open hand" and originated in Okinawa. Based on blows delivered by hand, foot or knee.

KUNG FU is a generic term for Chinese martial arts, originated in northern China and most famously adapted by Bruce Lee. More than 1,000 *different types exist today* — many in secret.

TAI CHI, full name Tai Chi Chuan, means "grand ultimate fist". Originated in China as a form of Kung Fu with fluid dreamlike movements.

AIKIDO was founded in Japan in the 1900s and means "way of harmony". A defensive art where a focused practitioner can redirect an opponent's aggressive force.

JIU-JITSU is a Japanese martial art meaning the gentle art. Employs arm locks and joint manipulation and regarded by many as a precursor of *Judo and Aikido.*

JUDO originated in Tokyo and means "gentle way". Developed as a sport based on a system of leverage techniques, throws and holds.

KENDO translates as "way of the sword" in Japan. Uses heavy, two-handed sword techniques with bamboo swords called shinai.

SUMO contestants compete on a 15ft dirt circle and aim to make any part of opponent's body, bar the soles of his feet, touch the ground.

TAEKWON-DO is unarmed self-defence combat that *originated in Korea featuring* kicking and punching techniques.

MUAY THAI is the correct term for Thai kick-boxing. Fighters today wear boxing-gloves and are often trained to be complete fighting machines from a young age.

BILL GRAHAM / KENT NEWS

Menacing: Michael Miller, 11, demonstrates his favourite move — tobi geri, the flying kick — "but it's not at all easy at first," he said

Focused on the 'way of harmony'

Aikido is a defensive art that turns an aggressor's power against himself. **Victoria Walker** reports

I hate fighting. I am not a particularly aggressive person and I shy from confrontation. I was therefore shocked to discover how much I enjoyed the physical contact of my first aikido class.

Aikido is a classical Japanese martial art. In contrast to karate or Chinese kung fu, for example, it is an essentially defensive discipline. Students of aikido are taught how to redirect the force of an attack back against the aggressor, and it is because of this redirection of energy that smaller, weaker people are able to exert control over larger, stronger ones.

There are four main schools of aikido, one of which, Yoshinkan aikido, is taught as part of the basic training of every policewoman in Japan. It is also one of the classical martial arts practised by Tokyo's riot squad.

David Rubens teaches Yoshinkan aikido at the Meidokan Dojo, or school, in West Hampstead, London. Before the lesson the class devotes a short period to silent meditation. They then bow and the action begins.

We started with a series of warm-up exercises. These consisted of simple stretches that are common to most active sports, plus a few rolling and moving techniques that are more attuned to the direct needs and moves of martial arts (at this point I attempted my first forward and backward roll since the age of seven). The last of the warm-up exercises were "controls". These loosen up the tendons in the wrists and get the systems of joints which are usually locked-in to a control position.

In the class that I watched there were 12 students, including three beginners. As Rubens demonstrated the controls at the front of the group, three of the more advanced students ran to the aid of the novices, gently positioning their hands in the correct formation to achieve the best stretch for the control. Such unbidden assistance was an example of the empathy with the needs of others demonstrated by both Rubens and the students.

Rubens demonstrated the first move with a more senior student in front of the entire class. He showed it initially as a fluid whole and then broke it down step-by-step. After several examples, we copied the move alone as if holding on to "shadow" partners. Then came the time to practise with a real body.

At this point, I felt markedly anxious. My male opponent, Nick, was bigger and undoubtedly stronger than me — when I had to grab his wrist I had difficulty in getting a good hold. I thought he looked pretty fierce, too, though in hindsight that may have been my own imagination, for he was gentle and firm and incredibly tolerant of my clumsy attempts.

At first I was the attacker and moved forward to grasp his wrist. Taking hold of the arm I had grabbed him with, Nick used two basic pivotal movements to knock me off my balance and a kneeling motion to pin me to the floor.

He had made it look so simple that I was initially disappointed when our roles were reversed and I had difficulty in remembering which step followed which. To my horror, I found that I even developed problems in recognising which was my left and which was my right hand.

Yet, when I finally managed to complete the movement, controlling Nick's body and forcing him to the ground, I was exhilarated by a sense of achievement and a curiously calming sense of empowerment. After practising the move several times, we bowed to our partners and sat back while Rubens demonstrated a second move.

As an observer, I was struck by the beauty of the fighting moves. The aikido performed before me was an intractable combination of grace and menace. The carefully choreographed steps were balletic in their poise and precise execution. I felt drawn to the idea of being able to defend myself with grace and power.

People are attracted to aikido for different reasons. Martin Gilbert, 46, has tried many different martial arts and joined this aikido dojo because it is conveniently located close to his home. He pursues it for the exercise, discipline and philosophy it provides.

Lucy Amis, 28, manages a bookshop in north London and took up aikido two years ago. She found it quite by chance, as she was looking for Tai Chi classes. "I went the first time and quite liked it, but, by the time I had been a second time, I loved it and was hooked," she said.

MARTIN BEDDALL

The writer deflects Ali Ganchi in her first aikido class

Ali Ganchi, 18, is a student studying for his A levels. Fascinated by martial arts, he first tried karate, but found that it did not suit him. He now regularly attends a Saturday morning class and has achieved a promising level of skill in a relatively short time.

As a father of two children (with a third due very shortly), Rubens recognises the education and fun that children can get out of martial arts. As a result, he offers classes from the age of five.

It is impossible to get Rubens to talk about his own experiences as a student and teacher of aikido without him mentioning his own teacher, Gozo Shioda (who in turn was a student of the founder of aikido, Morihei Ueshiba). He spent five years training directly under Gozo Shioda in the Yoshinkan headquarters school in Tokyo and was one of only six Westerners to become a live-in Shido'in (instructor). Such lineage shows how important tradition is within the discipline.

Japanese martial arts, until just over a century ago, were practised by samurai, the warrior class. Aikido means "way of harmony". Training in aikido differs from that of many other Japanese martial arts in that it has a deep underlying philosophy. The aim of aikido is to unify the mind, body and energy of a person. By focusing the energy and the mind and by using the body to work with, rather than against an opponent, harmony is achieved.

This philosophy and the sense of being part of something much bigger is a powerful force in itself. For the past few days, like someone enamoured by a new romance, I have not been able to get aikido off my mind. I have been caught so many times in an apparent daydream as I re-enact moves trying to perfect them in my imagination. I am excited at the prospect of learning a whole new art and suspect that Rubens may not have seen the last of me.

STARTING OUT

British Aikido Board. General secretary: Shirley Timms. Write with sae to
6 Halkingcroft,
Langley, Slough,
Berkshire, SL3 7AT.
01753 819086

Meidokan Yoshinkai Aikido Dojo. David Rubens, Studio One,
187-191 West End Lane,
West Hampstead,
London. 0171-328 4533

Further reading

The official book of the Tokyo Yoshinkan Aikido Federation is published in Britain this month by Kodansha International. £24.00. *Total Aikido: The Master Course*, by Gozo Shioda with Yasuhisa Shioda. Translated from the Japanese by David Rubens. ISBN 4 7700 2058 9

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FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

LEICESTER: BCAFL Championship Game: College Bowl XI: Loughborough Aces 28 Tarannau Aberystwyth 13.

ATHLETICS

Cross country

BRIDGEND: Gwent League: Men: 1, N Comerford (Cardiff) 34min 13sec; 2, P Cook (Cardiff) 35:23; 3, S Brace (Bridgend) 35:53. **Team:** Swansea. **Women:** 1, C Thomas (Swansea) 22:51; 2, C Wensley (Newport) 23:13; 3, W Edwards (Les Croupiers) 23:27. **Team:** Les Croupiers.

Road running

SEOUL, South Korea: Dong-A international marathon *(42.195km)*: 1, A Anton (Sp) 2hr 12min 37sec; 2, V Lima (Br) 2:12:41; 3, A Mekonnen (Eth) 2:12:45; 4, M Matias (Por) 2:12:51; 5, B Masya (Ken) 2:12:53.

ITALY: Rome marathon: Men: 1, D Jilo (Eth) 2hr 13min 3sec; 2, *M Tayo (Eth)* 2:13:39; 3, K Cheruiyot (Ken) 2:13:56; 4, I [illegible]nchev (Russ) 2:14:17; 5, T Ebcha (Eth) 2:14:25. **Women:** 1, J Salumae (Est) 2:31:40; 2, A Villani (It) 2:35:47; 3, I Skylarenko (Ukr) 2:38:33; 4, E Abossa (Eth) 2:39:15; 5, F Sisai (Eth) 2:46:06.

READING: AAA half-marathon championship: Men: 1, S Duval (Cannock and Stafford) 1hr 04min 50sec; 2, M Steinle (Blackheath) 1:04:56; 3, W Foster (Blackheath) 1:04:57. **Team:** Thames Hare and Hounds. **Women:** 1, D *Sanderson* (Watford) 1:16:07; 2, M Ellis (Shaftesbury Barnet) 1:17:04; 3, H Heasman (Horwich) 1:17:22.

STRATHCLYDE PARK: Scottish 10km championships: 1, T Murray (IBM Spango Valley) 29min 17sec; 2, D Ross (Mizuno) 29:21; 3, W Coyle (Shettleston) 29:26. **Team:** Mizuno. **Women:** 1, F Lothian (Fife) 33:51; 2, T Brindley (Aberdeen) 34:55; 3, T Thomson (Babcock Pitreavie) 35:10. **Team:** City of Glasgow.

HASTINGS: Half-marathon: Men: 1, Cornford (Shaftesbury Barnet) 1hr 05min 44sec. **Team:** Hastings. **Women:** C Horne (Crawley) 1:18:55.

SOUTH SHIELDS: Dolly Peel 10km: Men: 1, D Bannister (Shaftesbury Barnett) 30min 00sec; 2, B Rushworth (Sunderland) 30:18; 3, S Bell (Chester-le-Street) 30:33. **Team:** Sunderland. **Women:** 1, L Harding (Houghton and Peterlee) 35:06; 2, A Tremble (North Shields Polytechnic) 35:47; 3, L McCarthy (Blaydon) 36:47. **Team:** Jarrow and Hebburn.

BADMINTON

BIRMINGHAM: Yonex All-England open championships: Men: Singles: Quarter-finals: Dong Jiong (China) bt P Rasmussen (Den) 15-12, 15-8; H Arbi (Indo) bt Luo Yigang (China) 8-15, 15-9, 15-6; P-E Hoyer Larsen (Den) bt B Santoso (Den) 15-7, 18-15; Sun Jun (China) bt Lin Liwen (China) 15-9, 15-9. **Semi-finals:** Sun Jun bt Arbi 15-10, 15-11; Dong Jiong bt Hoyer Larsen 15-8, 15-10. **Final:** Dong Jiong bt Sun Jun 15-9, 15-5. **Doubles: Semi-finals:** J Holst Christensen and M Sogaard (Den) bt C Soon Kit and Yap Kim Hock (China) 15-8, 12-15, 15-11; Ha Tae Kwon and Kang Kyung-Jin (S Kor) bt Sigit and C Wijaya (Indo) 15-11, 15-7. **Final:** Ha Tae Kwon and Kang Kyung-Jin bt Christensen and Sogaard 15-11, 17-16. **Women: Singles: Quarter-finals:** Dai Yun (China) bt Zhang Ning (China) 5-11, 12-11, 11-8; Ye Zhaoying (China) bt Kim Ji-Hyun (S Kor) 11-7, 11-1; Ra Kyung-Min (S Kor) bt C Martin (Den) 11-7, 11-12, 11-6; Gong Zhichao (China) bt S Susanti (Indo) 11-4, 11-7. **Semi-finals:** Ye Zhaoying bt Dai Yun 11-2, 5-11, 11-2; Gong Zhichao bt Ra Kyung-Min 11-2, 11-2. **Final:** Ye Zhaoying bt Gong Zhichao 11-1, 11-3. **Doubles: Semi-finals:** Ge Fei and Gu Jun (China) bt H Kragsgaard and R Olsen (Den) 15-3, 15-6; E [illegible] and R Zelin (Indo) bt Huang Nanyan and Liu Zhong (China) 15-17, 15-8. **Final:** Ge Fei and Gu Jun bt Zelin and [illegible] 15-6, 15-8. **Mixed doubles: Semi-finals:** Liu Yong and Ge Fei (China) bt C Hunt and D Kellogg (GB) 15-6, 15-4; T Haryanto and M Timur (Indo) bt Chen Xingdong and Gu Jun (China) 15-11, 12-15, 15-2. **Final:** Ge Fei and Liu Yong bt Haryanto and Timur 15-10, 15-2.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: New Jersey 99 Chicago 98; Philadelphia 109 Minnesota 95; Orlando 86 Charlotte 81; Miami 88 Vancouver 82; Seattle 97 Atlanta 91; Utah 105 Indiana 96; Washington 106 Milwaukee 96; San Antonio 103 Boston 92; Portland 96 Cleveland 73; LA Clippers 97 LA Lakers 95. **Saturday:** Golden State 106 Toronto 100; Charlotte 107 Philadelphia 99; Utah 103 Washington 93; Chicago 99 Atlanta 79; Denver 121 San Antonio 105; Phoenix 101 Dallas 76.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	47	17	734	—
New York	47	17	734	—
Orlando	35	28	556	11½
Washington	30	34	469	17
New Jersey	19	44	302	27½
Philadelphia	17	47	266	30
Boston	12	53	185	35½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
* Chicago	56	9	862	—
Detroit	46	17	730	9
Atlanta	43	22	662	13
Charlotte	42	23	646	14
Cleveland	34	29	540	21
Indiana	30	33	476	25
Milwaukee	26	37	412	29
Toronto	23	41	359	32½

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
* Utah	48	17	738	—
Houston	43	21	672	4½
Minnesota	31	32	492	16
Dallas	21	42	333	26
Denver	19	45	297	28½
San Antonio	16	48	250	31½
Vancouver	11	55	167	37½

Pacific division

	W	L	Pct	GB
* Seattle	45	18	714	—
LA Lakers	42	21	667	3
Portland	37	28	569	9
Sacramento	28	36	438	17½
LA Clippers	27	35	435	17½
Phoenix	26	38	406	19½
Golden State	25	39	391	20½

* denotes qualified for play-offs

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Bury and Bolton 82 Nottingham 97, Cardiff 81 Brixton 77; *Coventry 91 Liverpool 69*, **Guildford 91 Stockton 105**, **Solent 81 Mid Sussex 93**; Westminster 56 Plymouth 65. **Second division:** Bournemouth 84 Flintshire 71, Chessington 65 Sheffield 53, Solihull 80 South Wales 72, Thames Valley 90 Northampton 72. ***Women: First division:*** Barking and Dagenham 49 Rhondda 68; Birmingham 52 Nottingham 55; Harlesden 57 Spelthorne 67, London 67 Crystal Palace 122. Thames Valley 72 Ipswich 52. **Second division: Play-offs: Semi-final:** Leicester 58 Manchester 52.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Friday: Manchester 83 Newcastle 75. **Saturday:** Derby 96 Manchester 92; Leicester 89 Crystal Palace 67; Worthing 97 Hemel and Watford 82; Thames Valley 84 Leopards 88.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Leopards	31	24	7	2891	2728	48
* Sheffield	28	22	6	2517	2212	44
* Birmingham	29	21	8	2598	2418	42
* Chester	30	21	9	2614	2448	42
* London Tow	27	20	7	2348	2136	40
Manchester	32	19	13	2548	2404	38
Newcastle	31	17	14	2738	2682	34
Leicester	29	13	16	2546	2489	26
Derby	31	12	19	2722	2781	24
Thames Valley	28	9	19	2545	2503	18
* Worthing	30	9	21	2483	2686	18
* C Palace	31	5	26	2337	2657	10
Hemel and W	31	2	29	2587	3240	4

* not including last night's matches

BIATHLON

NOVOSIBIRSK, Russia: World Cup event. Men: 10km: 1, L Gredler (Austria) 27min 59.9sec; 2, R Gross (Ger) 28:41.8; 3, *S Tarasov (Russ) 28:42.4*. **20km:** 1, P Muslimov (Russ) 58min 17.3sec; 2, R Gross (Ger) 59:27.7; 3, S Fischer (Ger) 59:22.2. **Women: 15km:** 1, S Paramygina (Belo) 54:02.8; 2, U Disl (Ger) 54:53.2; 3, A Volkova (Russ) 55:10.2.

BOWLS

BALLYMONEY: Home international indoor championships: England bt Scotland 135-113 (England skips first: A Allcock *bt A Marshall 23-19; D Ward lost to W Wood* 14-17; G Harlow bt J Muir 29-10; G A Smith lost to G Robertson 7-34; A Thomson bt R Corsie 28-17; G R Smith bt R McCulloch 34-16). **Final standings:** 1, England 6pts (+51 shots); 2, Ireland 2 (-5); 3, Wales 2 (-22); 4, Scotland 2 (-24).

CIS INSURANCE SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP: First division play-off: Blantyre 83 Midlothian 65.

GENERAL ACCIDENT CITIES AND COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: East Fife 103 East Lothian 59, *Arbroath 80 Edinburgh 82*.

BOXING

RIVERMEAD CENTRE, Reading: British Light-middleweight championship: Ryan Rhodes (Sheffield, holder) bt Del Bryan (Nottingham) rsc 7th. **World Boxing Organisation inter-continental super-middleweight championship:** Dean Francis (Basingstoke, holder) bt Cornelius Carr (Middlesbrough) rsc 7th. **Cruiserweight** (6 rnds): Kelly Oliver (Lincoln) bt Chris Woollas (Doncaster) pts. **Middleweight** (6 rnds): Sven Hamer (Margate) bt Brian Galloway (Sheffield) ko 1st. **Welterweight: Southern area championship** (10 rnds): H Dhami (Gravesend, holder) bt P Dyer (Portsmouth) pts. ***Light-welterweight*** *(8 rnds): Mark Winters (Antrim)* bt Paul Denton (Birmingham) pts.

GUILD HALL, Cambridge: University match: Cambridge 4 Oxford 5 (Cambridge names first). **Under-91kg:** C Smith (Fitzwilliam) bt P Simmons (St Anne's) ko 2nd. ***Under-81kg:*** P Smith (Trinity Hall) lost to B Sharp (University) pts. **Under-75kg:** C Waite (Gonville and Caius) lost to M Heywood (Exeter) pts; R Boudib (Wolfson) lost to C Puddicombe (University) rsc 3rd. **Under-71kg:** C Baylis (Trinity Hall) lost to E Grettens (Lady Margaret Hall) pts. **Under-67kg:** G Pincent (Pembroke) lost to M Pokrass rsc 2nd. **Under-63kg:** M Dore (Peterhouse) bt B Palmer (Exeter) pts. **Under-60kg:** J Cartwright (Wolfson) bt M Tindall (Brasenose) pts. **Under-57kg:** D Freeland (Pembroke) bt D Carmalt (Christ Church) rsc 1st.

MAZARA DEL VALLO, Sicily: European super-middleweight championship (vacant): Andrei Shkalikov (Russ) bt Mauro Galvano (It) rsc 8th.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD *(final day of four)* **Sydney:** *Tasmania* 463-7 dec and 250-5 dec (J Cox 124, D F Hills 75); New South Wales 449 (P A Emery 100 not out, M J Slater 87) and 305-4 (Slater 79, S Lee 75 not out, R J Davison 43, J L Arnberger 57). New South Wales win by six wickets. **Brisbane:** Queensland 277 and 218 (M P Mott 60, S G Law 50); South Australia 100 and 198 (M P Faull 64). Queensland win by 137 runs. **Melbourne:** Victoria 205 and 224 (L Harper 100 not out, B P Julian 7-48); Western Australia 458-9 dec. Western Australia win by an innings and 29 runs.

Final table

	P	W	WFI	D	LFI	L	Pts
W Australia	10	6	3	0	0	1	42
Queensland	10	4	2	0	3	1	28
NSW	10	4	1	0	1	4	28
Tasmania	10	3	2	0	1	4	28
Victoria	10	3	0	0	2	5	19.7
S Australia	10	2	0	0	1	7	14

Victoria deducted 0.3pts for slow over rate against New South Wales

Queensland qualify for Shield final against Western Australia from March 21 to 25 in Perth with a superior average of runs scored for and against during the season.

Supersport Series, final table

	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bowl	Pts
Natal	8	5	1	2	32	28	110
W Province	8	4	1	3	28	27	95
Border	8	4	1	3	26	25	90
E Province	8	4	3	1	25	23	88
Transvaal	8	3	3	2	24	28	82
Free State	8	2	1	4	22	25	77
Boland	8	3	4	1	14	26	70
Griqualand W	8	1	6	1	18	10	44
N Transvaal	8	0	7	1	15	22	37

CYCLING

Time-trial

PORTHOLE GRAND PRIX (Windermere, Cumbria, 21.2 miles): **Men:** 1, C Boardman (GAN) 45min 2sec; 2, S Dangerfield (Wolverhampton Wheelers) 48:01; 3, G *Butler (Nutwood Pursuit) 48:04*. **Women:** Y McGregor (Adidas-SciCon) 55:26. **Team:** Adidas-SciCon (P Manning, A Wilkinson, P Wooll) 2:29:46.

Road race

PARIS-NICE RACE: Seventh stage (Saint-Andre-les-Alpes to Antibes-Juan-les-Pins, 160.5km): 1, A Baldi (It) 3hr 35min 49sec; 2, J Museeuw (Bel) same time; 3, G M Fagnini (It); 4, A Tchmil (Ukr); 5, C Moreau (Fr); 6, P Chanteur (Fr); 7, C Mengin (Fr); 8, S Sunderland (Aus); 9, *F Gougot (Fr)*; 10, F Benitez (Sp). **Eighth stage:** 1, T Steels (Bel) 1hr 39min 10sec; 2, F Baldato (It); 3, F Moncassin (Fr); 4, Fagnini; 5, L Aus (Est); 6, R Jarmann (Ger); 7, J-J Henry (Fr); 8, J L Rubiera (Sp); 9, N Loda (It); 10, Tchmil all same time. **Leading final overall positions:** 1, L Jalabert (Fr) 28hr 56min 06sec; 2, L Dufaux (Switz) at 1min behind; 3, S Blanco (Sp) 1:25; 4, V Yekimov (Russ) 1:45; 5, P Chanteur (Fr) 2:06; 6, D Rous (Fr) 2:32; 7, M Zarrabeitia (Sp) 2:39; 8, J Museeuw (Bel) 2:43; 9, Moreau 2:51; 10, P Lino (Fr) 2:55.

OTHER RACES: Winners. Grand prix of Essex (Halstead, 102 miles): R Hayles (Team Ambrosia) 4:01:13. **Danum Trophy** (Wentworth, near Rotherham, 60 miles): R Downing (Team Invader) 2:31:00. **Surrey League** (Crowhurst, 60 miles): D Berkeley (Sigma Sport RT) 2:33:55. **Tour of Ards** (Carrowdore, Co Down, 55 miles): T Evans (Banbridge CC) 2:10:49. **Manchester Velo Handicap** (Chelford, Cheshire, 33 miles): A Hunter (Team Lusso) 1:24:00. **Penzance Wheelers** (RAF Portreath, Redruth, 33 miles): A Sturman (Plymouth Corinthian CC) 1:18:59. **Women's CRA Handicap** *(Milton Keynes Bowl, 25 miles)*: N Jeffrey (Old Portlians CC) 1:06:14.

EQUESTRIANISM

DORTMUND, Germany: Volvo World Cup qualifier: 1, *City Banking (B Mandli, Switz)* clear, 35.72sec; 2, Virtual Village Welham (J Whitaker, GB) clear, 36.79; 3, Virtual Village Ummus Bar (M Whitaker, GB) clear, 37.86. **European League positions** (after 14 of 15 qualifiers): 1, M Whitaker 80pts; 2, J Whitaker 79; 3, P Raymakers (Holl) 72.

ALDON HORSE TRIALS: Open intermediate section N: 1, McRuddles (S Newman) 35pts; 2, Quart Glass (K Gifford) 38; 3, Supreme Rock (P Funnell) 38. **Open intermediate section P:** 1, King William (M King) 36pts; 2, Keeper of the Castle (K Holmes) 37; 3, Alfred at Church Farm (D Scaife) 40. **Advanced intermediate section S:** 1, Cosmopolitan II (W Fox-Pitt) 35pts; 2, Scotch (C Floyd) 42; 3, The Tourmaline Rose (P Funnell) 42. **Advanced intermediate section T:** 1, Rainbow Magic (P Funnell) 37pts; 2, Simply Red (L Murray) 33; 3, Trust Hector (B Beaumont) 34.

FENCING

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL, Bath: British sabre championships: Men: 1, N Fletcher (Salle Frohlich); 2, D Sach (Hammersmith); 3 equal, J Williams and S Potts (both Salle Frohlich). **Women:** 1, L Bond Williams (Stafford Swords); 2, A White (Kingston); 3 equal, S Cox (Salle Frohlich) and S Martin (Millfield).

GOLF

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida: Honda Classic: Leaders after three rounds *(United States unless stated)*: **203:** S Appleby (Aus) 68, 68, 67. **204:** P Stewart 68, 68, 68. **205:** P Stankowski 67, 66, 72. **206:** A Magee 70, 68, 68; P H Horgan 69, 69, 68; C Montgomerie (GB) 68, 68, 70; R Gamez 70, 66, 70; L Janzen 67, 68, 71; J Huston 69, 65, 72. **207:** T Herron 73, 67, 67; D Mast 70, 71, 66; M Brisky 71, 66, 70; G Kraft 68, 67, 72; D Martin 69, 66, 72; M Bradley 69, 65, 73. **208:** T Lehman 72, 68, 68; J Durant 69, 71, 68; J Parnevik (Swe) 71, 69, 68; R Black 69, 71, 68; C Byrum 73, 66, 69; C Parry (Aus) 74, 64, 70; J Carter 72, 66, 70; G Boros 69, 69, 70; I Woosnam (GB) 70, 67, 71. **Other scores: 210:** H Kase (Japan) 72, 66, 72. **211:** B Langer (Ger) 70, 70, 71. **212:** E Els (SA) 72, 69, 71; R Alarcon (Mex) 69, 72, 71.

KEDOIN, Japan: Token Cup: Leading final scores *(Japan unless stated)*: **269:** M Ozaki 71, 65, 61, 72. **270:** C Franco (Par) 65, 68, 69, 68. **272:** B Jobe (US) 71, 66, 66, 69. **274:** E Herrera (Col) 73, 68, 63, 70; T Watanabe 69, 64, 70, 71. **275:** P Senior (Aus) 71, 67, 69, 68; T Ozaki 71, 69, 67, 68. ***277:*** *S Ginn (Aus) 69, 69, 72, 67; F Minoza (Phil) 72, 69, 67, 69;* H Sasaki 69, 70, 66, 72. **278:** P Teravainen (US) 73, 67, 69, 69; T Hamilton (US) 72, 68, 67, 71; T Sugihara 69, 67, 69, 73.

MUTHAIGA: Kenya Open: Leading final scores: 268: J Berendt (Arg) 70, 68, 64, 66. **272:** S Daniels (SA) 66, 70, 68, 68. **273:** T Nielsen (Nor) 68, 73, 64, 68; M Reale (It) 69, 66, 67, 71. **275:** S Burnell (Eng) 67, 66, 72, 70. **276:** M Miller (Scot) 67, 67, 74, 68; M Scholz (SA) 68, 66, 74, 68; M Krantz (Swe) 73, 69, 66, 68.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE *(NHL):* **Friday:** NY Rangers 4 Ottawa 3 (OT); Dallas 4 Chicago 4 (OT); Colorado 6 Pittsburgh 3; Anaheim 4 St Louis 4 (OT); Phoenix 4 San Jose 1. **Saturday:** Boston 5 NY Islanders 2; New Jersey 3 Washington 2; Buffalo 7 Philadelphia 5; Edmonton 4 Hartford 2; Vancouver 5 Tampa Bay 2; Florida 3 Toronto 3 (OT); Montreal 2 Ottawa 2 (OT); Calgary 5 Los Angeles 2; Detroit 7 San Jose 4.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Philadelphia	39	21	10	236	194	88
New Jersey	38	19	12	197	157	88
Florida	31	23	16	188	167	78
NY Rangers	33	28	9	226	196	75
Tampa Bay	27	34	7	195	214	61
Washington	27	35	7	174	194	61
NY Islanders	24	35	10	186	203	58

Northeast division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Buffalo	36	21	11	202	170	83
Pittsburgh	32	29	7	236	207	71
Hartford	27	32	10	191	214	64
Montreal	25	32	14	215	245	64
Ottawa	22	33	14	189	203	58
Boston	24	37	9	205	249	57

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Dallas	40	23	6	203	169	86
Detroit	33	20	15	219	161	81
Phoenix	32	33	5	201	211	69
St Louis	30	31	9	207	215	69
Chicago	*27*	*31*	*12*	*181*	*176*	*66*
Toronto	25	38	6	201	237	56

Pacific division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
* Colorado	42	16	9	236	163	93
Edmonton	32	32	7	221	215	71
Anaheim	29	30	10	201	199	68
Calgary	30	34	7	189	200	67
Vancouver	29	37	4	218	240	62
Los Angeles	25	37	9	188	233	59
San Jose	23	39	7	177	231	53

* denotes qualified for play-offs

SUPERLEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: Group A: Ayr 6 Newcastle 4. **Group B:** Bracknell 3 Nottingham 4; Sheffield 3 Basingstoke 2 (OT).

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Boardman and Eccles 10 Mellor 10; Heaton Mersey 14 Cheadle Hulme 11; Old Waconians 5 Cheadle 18; Stockport 8 Hulmeians 5.

CARDIFF: Women's Under-21 home internationals: Wales 0 Scotland 2; Scotland 3 England 15; Wales 5 England 3.

MOTOR RALLYING

VAUXHALL RALLY OF WALES (at Great Britain): 1, A McRae and D Senior (Volkswagen Golf GTI 16V) 2hr 28min 48sec; 2, G Evans and H Davies (Ford Escort) 2:30:05; 3, M Higgins and P Mills (Nissan Sunny) 2:31:28; 4, D Mann and A Cook (Proton Persona) 2:34:13; 5, D Higgins and C Simmons (Subaru Impreza) 2:34:38; 6, S Petch and P Croft (Subaru Impreza) 2:41:52.

NORDIC SKIING

OSLO: World Cup event: Men: Combined jump: 1, B E Vik (Nor) 124.1pts; 2, J Matura (Cz) 117.5; 3, J Dorrnel (Ger) 117.0. **Cross country** (50km): 1, P P Cottrer (It) 2hr 03min 34.5sec; 2, T Arne Hetland (Nor) 2:04:37.8; 3, B Daehlie (Nor) 2:04:42.2. **Leading overall World Cup positions:** 1, Daehlie 845pts; 2, M Myllyla (Fin) 580; 3, F Valbusa (It) 523. **Women: Cross country** (30km): 1, S *Belmondo (It) 1hr 20min 03.5sec*; 2, E Vaelbe (Russ) 1:21:56.0; 3, E Nilsen (Nor) 1:22:23.7. ***Leading final World Cup standings:*** 1, Vaelbe 940pts; 2, Belmondo 909; 3, I Neumannova (Cz) 525.

REAL TENNIS

HOLYPORT: British Land amateur singles championship: Quarter-finals: J Snow bt J Ward 6-0, 6-0, 6-0; M Ward bt J Wilcox 1-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; P Jarvis bt M Howard 6-5, 6-0, 6-5; N Pendrigh bt N Baker 6-2, 6-3, 6-4. **Semi-finals:** Snow bt M Ward 6-1, 6-0, 6-0; Pendrigh bt Jarvis 6-5, 6-5, 6-1. **Final:** Snow bt Pendrigh 6-2, 6-1, 6-1.

ROWING

KINGSTON HEAD OF THE RIVER: Eights: 1, London University A 15min 18sec; 2, Imperial College/Queen's Tower 15:51; 3, London University B 15:53. **Other division winners: Men: Senior one:** London RC 16min 03sec. **Senior two:** London University C 16:06. **Senior three:** St Edward's 16:19. **College:** Kingston University 17:04. **Novice:** Southampton University 17:08. **Veteran:** Tideway Scullers 17:29. **Women: Senior three:** *Bristol University* 18:55. **Novice:** Oxford Brookes University 20:19. **Quads: Open:** Tiffin 17:48. **Women: Senior one:** Molesey/Upper Thames 18:49. **Fours: Senior three:** Bristol University 18:33. **Women's senior three:** Bristol University 19:57.

NORTH OF ENGLAND HEAD: Eights: Men: 1, Royal Chester (open winners) 15min 59sec; 2, Durham University 16:16; 3, Nottingham and Union 16:24. **Other division winners: Senior one:** Durham University 16:42. ***Senior two:*** *Leeds University* 17:11. **Senior three:** Edinburgh University 16:54. **Novice:** Durham University 17:45. **Veteran:** Nottingham and Union 17:26. **Women: Open:** Grosvenor/Northwich 19:52. **Senior one:** Nottingham and Union 19:18. **Senior two:** Durham University (overall winners) 19:15. **Senior three:** *Royal Chester 20:18*. **Novice:** *UMIST 22:04*.

SKIING

VAIL, Colorado. **World Cup event: Men: Giant slalom:** 1, M von Grünigen (Switz) 2min 15.56sec; 2, R Salzgeber (Austria) 2:19.57; 3, A Schifferer (Austria) 2:19.97; 4, P Holzer (It) 2:20.28; 5, H Maier (Austria) 2:20.75. **Leading final giant slalom positions:** 1, von Grünigen 660pts; 2, K A Aamodt (Nor) 387; 3, H Knauss (Austria) 349; 4, S Locher (Switz) 305; 5, F Nyberg (Swe) 291. **Leading overall World Cup positions:** 1, L Alphand (Fr) 1,130pts; 2, Aamodt 1,060; 3, J Strobl (Austria) 1,021; 4, K Ghedina (It) 990; 5, Von Grunigen 822. **Women: Giant slalom:** 1, D Compagnoni (It) 2min 11.45sec; 2, K Seizinger (Ger) 2:11.83; 3, K Roten (Switz) 2:12.07; 4, I Kostner (It) 2:12.51; 5, P Wiberg (Switz) 2:12.66. **Leading final overall giant slalom positions:** 1, Compagnoni 560pts; 2, Seizinger 420; 3, A Wachter (Austria) 378; 4, Roten 255; 5, Wiberg 229. **Leading overall World Cup positions:** 1, Wiberg 1,860pts; 2, Seizinger 1,364; 3, H Gerg (Ger) 1126; 4, Compagnoni 927; 5, Kostner 823.

SKI JUMPING

FALUN, Sweden: World Cup event: 1, P Peterka (Slovenia) 201.4pts; 2, P Thoma (Ger) 188.3; 3, H Saito (Japan) 188.2; 4, H Lie (Nor) 157.0; 5, A Malysz (Pol) 185.1.

SQUASH

LINZ: Austrian Open: Men: Semi-finals: D Jenson (Aus) bt R Eyles (Aus) 15-10, 7-15, 11-15, 15-10, 17-15; Jansher Khan (Pak) bt J Bonetat (Fr) 14-15, 13-15, 15-4, 15-10, 15-9. **Final:** Jansher bt Jenson 15-6, 11-15, 15-13, 15-10. **Women: Final:** K Major (Aus) *bt N Tippett (Aus) 9-2, 9-10, 9-4, 9-6*.

SHIFNAL: Cannons British Circuit. Semi-finals: Men: J Dale bt B Ball 9-3, 9-4, 9-0; C Leach bt M Allen 9-1, 9-2, 9-3. **Women:** R Macree bt J Hodkinson 4-9, 9-7, 9-4, 9-3; J Tranfield bt K Hargreaves 9-2, 9-0, 9-2.

SPEEDWAY

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Coventry 51 Swindon 40.

TABLE TENNIS

BRIGHTON: National championships: Men. Singles: Quarter-finals: M Syed (Berkshire) bt N Mason (Sussex) 21-19, 21-9, 21-11; B Billington (Derbyshire) bt T Young (Berkshire) 21-17, 21-17, 14-21, 21-14; D Douglas (Warwickshire) bt A Perry (Devon) 21-14, 21-14, 21-18; A Cooke (Derbyshire) bt D Blake (Surrey) 21-17, 21-17, 21-7. **Semi-finals:** Syed bt Billington 17-21, 22-24, 21-9, 21-13, 21-5; Cooke bt Douglas 21-14, 17-21, 21-13, 21-18. **Final:** Syed bt Cooke 21-19, 21-8, 21-18. **Doubles: Final:** Cooke and Douglas bt C Oldfield (Yorkshire) and Perry 21-10, 21-13. **Women: Singles: Quarter-finals:** N Deaton (Derbyshire) bt E Hurling (Hertfordshire) 25-23, 21-15, 21-12; L Radford (Essex) bt J Barraclough (Devon) 21-13, 21-13, 21-14; H Lower (Staffordshire) bt G Schwartz (Berkshire) 21-13, 21-9, 21-12; A Holt (Lancashire) bt K Owolabi (Middlesex) 21-6, 21-17, 21-13. **Semi-finals:** Deaton bt Radford 22-20, 22-20, 21-18; Lower bt Holt 21-13, 21-18, 21-18. **Final:** Deaton bt Lower 21-16, 21-15, 21-17. **Doubles:** Holt and Owolabi bt Lower and Radford 19-21, 21-12, 21-14. **Mixed doubles. Final:** Perry and Holt bt Young and Schwartz 21-14, 21-13.

TENNIS

COPENHAGEN: Men's tournament: Semi-finals: M Damm (Cz) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; T Johansson (Swe) bt L Burgsmüller (Ger) 6-2, 6-4. **Final:** Johansson bt Damm 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

INDIAN WELLS, California: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: T Muster (Austria) bt M Philippoussis (Aus) 6-4, 7-6; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 6-2, 6-3; B Ulihrach (Cz) bt B Black (Zim) 6-4, 6-2; M Chang (US) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-3, 6-2. **Semi-finals:** Ulihrach bt Bjorkman 6-3, 6-2; Chang bt Muster 6-1, 7-6.

INDIAN WELLS: Women's tournament: Semi-finals: I Spirlea (Rom) bt A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; L Davenport (US) bt M J Fernandez (US) 6-1, 6-1. **Final:** Davenport bt Spirlea 6-2, 6-1.

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Malory Lewisham 3 City of Stoke 1 (15-7, 7-15, 15-9, 15-4); Reebok Liverpool City 3 Warwick Riga 2 (15-3, 15-9, 11-15, 8-15, 15-11); Leeds 3 Tooting Aquila 2 (14-16, *12-15, 15-12, 15-13, 16-14); Malory Lewisham* 3 Sportset Whitefield 0 (15-11, 15-7, 15-10); Crofton Sportswearhouse 0 City of Stoke 3 (4-15, 7-15, 5-15); Wessex 1 Polonia Ealing 3 (11-15, 15-12, 8-15, 9-15). **Women: First division:** Leeds 0 Britannia Music City 3 (4-15, 9-15, 6-15).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League

Leeds 32 **Oldham** 22

Leeds: Tries: Blackmore 2, Collins, *Cummins, Morley, Sterling.* **Goals:** *Cummins 4.* **Oldham: Tries:** Aicheson, Clarke, Crompton, Ranson. **Goals:** Maloney 3. **Att:** 11,516.

Salford 4 **Castleford** 0

Salford: Try: Coussons. **Att:** 5,726.

Sheffield *4* ***Paris*** *18*

Sheffield: Goals: Aston 2. **Paris: Tries:** Bergman, Sing, Wall. **Goals:** Robinson 3. **Att:** 4,213.

Wigan 20 **Halifax** 18

Wigan: Tries: A Johnson, Ellison, P Johnson, Tallec. **Goals:** Farrell, Paul. **Halifax: Tries:** Amone, Pearson, Tuilagi. **Goals:** Schuster 3. **Att:** 11,566.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Bradford Bulls 58 Warrington Wolves 20.

First division

Featherstone 32 **Swinton** 26

Featherstone: Tries: *Baker 2, Hughes 2,* Bargate, Chapman, Gary H Price. **Goals:** Fox, Maskill. **Swinton: Tries:** Longo 2, McCabe, Wellsby. **Goals:** Pearce 5. **Att:** 1,687.

Huddersfield 36 **Keighley** 12

Huddersfield: Tries: Booth, Davys, Richards, Russell, Sturm, Weston. **Goals:** Weston 6. **Keighley: Tries:** Fleary, Tawhai. **Goals:** Irving 2. **Att:** 4,570.

Hull 54 **Widnes** 6

Hull: Tries: Richard Wilson 3, Liddiard 2, Craven, Fisher, Shultz, Vaikona. **Goals:** Hewitt 9. **Widnes: Try:** P Smith. **Goal:** Lythe. **Att:** 4,263.

Wakefield 32 **Whitehaven** 10

Wakefield: Tries: Proctor 2, Ford, Law, Rika, Southernwood. **Goals:** Davis 2, Rika 2. **Whitehaven: Tries:** Kiddie, Quirk. **Goal:** Maguire. **Att:** 1,739.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Dewsbury 24 *Hull Kingston Rovers 16*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull	3	3	0	0	108	14	6
Huddersfield	3	3	0	0	113	44	6
Wakefield	3	3	0	0	75	38	6
Hull KR	3	1	0	2	70	68	2
Dewsbury	2	1	0	1	34	39	2
Featherstone	3	1	0	2	58	75	2
Keighley	3	1	0	2	42	64	2
Widnes	2	1	0	1	30	72	2
Whitehaven	3	1	0	2	39	82	2
Workington	2	0	0	2	28	46	0
Swinton	3	0	0	3	42	99	0

Second division

Carlisle 22 **York** 0

Carlisle: Tries: Menzies 2, Rhodes, Thurlow. **Goals:** Richardson 3. **Att:** 460.

Hunslet 22 **Leigh** 27

Hunslet: Tries: Mansson 2, Rushton. **Goals:** Booth 5. **Leigh: Tries:** Purtill 2, *Burgess, Daniel, Sarsfield.* **Goals:** Purtill 3. **Dropped goal:** O'Loughlin. **Att:** 1,322.

Prescot 30 **Doncaster** 4

Prescot: Tries: Barber, Hamer, Lloyd, Puncherd, Thornburn, Turner. **Goals:** Ben*son 3. Doncaster: Try: Brannan.* **Att:** 515.

Rochdale 27 **Lancashire Lynx** 18

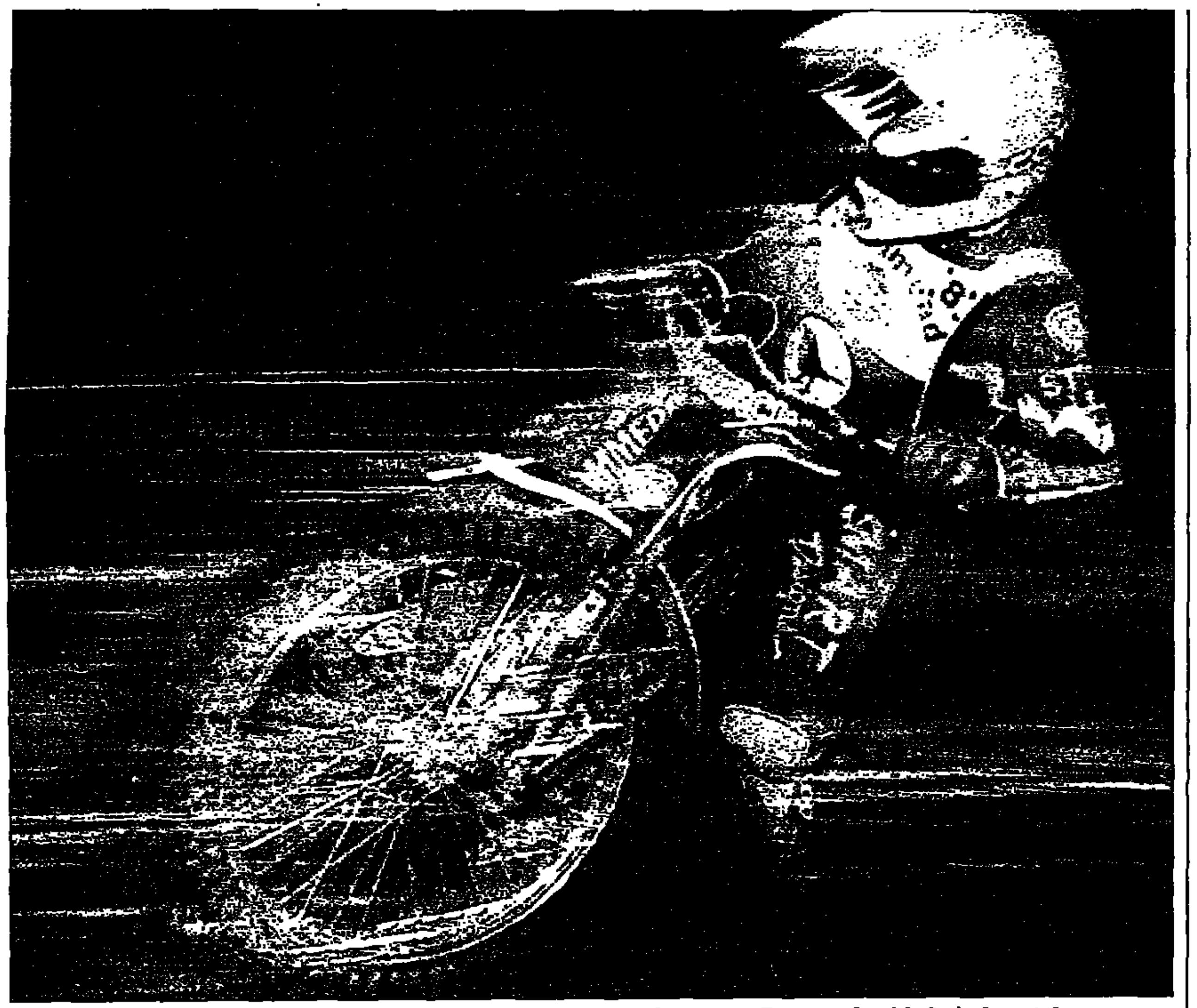
Rochdale: Tries: *Durrant*, Gartland, Marriott, Meadows, Stevens. **Goals:** Gartland 3. **Dropped goal:** Gartland. **Lancashire Lynx:** *Tries: Kelly, Parsley, Ruane. Goals: Francis,* Ruane, S Smith. **Att:** 850.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	3	3	0	0	76	26	6
Rochdale	3	3	0	0	92	46	6
Hunslet	3	2	0	1	95	49	4
Leigh	2	2	0	0	69	50	4
Batley	2	1	0	1	58	26	2
Prescot	2	1	0	1	34	48	2
Bramley	2	1	0	1	43	58	2
Lancashire L	3	1	0	2	76	93	2
Barrow	2	0	0	2	42	67	0
York	3	0	0	3	28	74	0
Doncaster	3	0	0	3	24	100	0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Beverley 16 Dudley Hill 17; *Egremont 16 Wigan St Patrick's 33*; Mayfield 6 Woolston 2; Saddleworth 21 Lock Lane 2; West Hull 32 Oldham St Anne's. **First division:** Barrow Island 30 East Leeds 8; Eastmoor 28 Blackbrook 12; Millom 12 Wigan St Jude's 18; Moldgreen 10 Askam 28; Walney Central 19 Thornhill 14. **Second division:** Eccles 8 Skirlaugh 24; Featherstone Amateur 32 Dewsbury Moor 18; Normanton 28 Hull Dockers 17, Redhill 14 Ovenden 10; Shaw Cross 26 New Earswick 4; York Acorn 14 Milford 18.

AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: North Queensland Cowboys 12 Penrith Panthers 19, Canterbury Bulldogs 38 Canberra Raiders 26; Perth Western Reds 16 Brisbane Broncos 36.

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Sydney City 18 Western Suburbs 6; North Sydney 34 Newcastle Knights 20; South Queensland Crushers 23 Parramatta 6; South Sydney 26 Gold Coast Chargers 16, Balmain 10 *Illawarra Steelers 18.*



Alun Rossiter, of Coventry, makes ground in the Speedway Star Cup match with Swindon at the Coventry Stadium on Saturday. Coventry won 51-40. Report, page 35. Photograph: Gavin Fogg

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Surbiton 4 Old Loughtonians 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	21	14	2	5	75	52	44
Teddington	21	14	1	6	70	53	43
Cannock	21	12	3	6	78	48	39
Southgate	21	12	2	7	63	53	38
Canterbury	21	10	5	6	62	51	35
East Grinstead	21	9	7	5	64	50	34
Old Loughton	21	10	2	9	57	51	32
Guildford	21	9	3	9	68	62	30
Hounslow	21	5	5	11	41	63	20
Surbiton	21	4	6	11	42	71	18
Barford Tigers	21	5	2	14	34	69	17
Havant	21	2	2	17	34	65	8

FIRST DIVISION: Saturday: Hull 11 Trojans 0; Stourport 7 Warrington 1, St Albans 3 Harleston Magpies *3*; Sheffield 2 Firebrands 3; Oxford University 7 Edgbaston 2; Oxford Hawks 1 Doncaster 5; Lewes 4 Crostyx 2; Isca 4 City of Portsmouth 1; Indian Gymkhana 5 Brooklands 3; Beeston 6 Bromley 2; Blueharts 4 Bournville 1. **Yesterday:** Stourport 5 Oxford Hawks 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beeston	20	18	2	0	82	24	56
Doncaster	20	13	3	4	85	45	42
Bournville	20	11	3	6	49	35	36
Isca	20	10	6	4	52	41	36
Indian Gym	20	10	4	6	56	42	34
Blueharts	20	10	4	6	52	43	34
Firebrands	21	10	4	7	46	55	34
Stourport	20	9	5	6	65	45	32
St Albans	*20*	*9*	*5*	*6*	*51*	*40*	*32*
Brooklands	20	9	3	8	48	36	30
Harleston M	20	7	6	7	39	40	27
Warrington	20	7	6	7	40	53	27
Sheffield	20	7	5	8	48	47	26
Oxford Hawks	20	8	2	10	36	45	26
Lewes	20	7	4	9	58	62	25
Gloucester City	20	7	3	10	34	51	24
Oxford Univ	20	6	4	10	35	42	22
Edgbaston	21	6	4	11	46	57	22
Portsmouth	20	5	5	10	36	52	20
Bromley	20	4	8	8	39	60	20
Hull	20	4	7	9	48	48	19
Crostyx	20	3	3	14	27	61	12
Trojans	20	1	4	15	24	72	7

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Old Whitgiftians 3 Spencer 0. *Hampshire/Surrey: Goan 1 Blandford 8.* Old Mid-Whitgiftians 2 Basingstoke 7; Petersfield 7 Southampton 5. **Kent/Sussex:** Belvedere 4 Bexleyheath 1; Blackheath 7 Bognor 1. Mid *Sussex 4 Sevenoaks 0;* Lloyds Bank 1 Eastbourne 0. ***Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon:*** *Amersham 3 Mill Hill* 2, Bracknell 3 West Hampstead 4; City of Oxford 4 Gerrards Cross 2; Eastcote 15 Harrow 0, Farnham Common 3 Marlow 6, Headington 3 Hayes 4; Newbury 2 Lions 5, Richings Park 6 OMT 2; Staines 2 Milton Keynes 2, Sunbury 0 PHC Chiswick 5

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Harrogate 5 Ben Rhydding 1; Norton 1 Sheffield Bankers 4; *Ramgarhia* 3 Springfields 5; Southport 2 Formby 5; Swalwell 1 Neston 0; Timperley 2 Chester 2.

HA TROPHY: Fourth round: Epsom 1 Staines 3; Hereford 0 Marlow 1

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Gordonians 3 Grange 2, Edinburgh University *2 MIM 4; Inverleith 1 Western Grasshoppers 7.* Torbrex Wanderers 4 Watsonians 1.

KUALA LUMPUR: World Cup qualifying event: Final: South Korea 2 Spain 3. **Third-place play-off:** *New Zealand 3 Poland 0.* **Qualifiers for World Cup:** Pakistan (holders), Holland, Australia, Germany, India, Great Britain, Spain, South Korea, New Zealand, Poland, Canada, Malaysia.

KARACHI: Five-nation tournament: Australia 2 Holland 3; England 1 Pakistan 1

AEWHA CUP: Fifth round: Chelmsford 2 Canterbury 3, Crimson Ramblers 0 Aldridge 1; Doncaster 2 Woking 1, Hightown 2 Trojans 1; Ipswich 4 Olton 0; Slough 3 Balsam Leicester 1, Sutton Coldfield 8 Cheam 0; Wimbledon 0 Clifton 3

AEWHA PLATE: Fourth round: Chiltern 1 Harrow 0; City of Portsmouth 1 Camberley 1 (aet: Camberley won 3-2 on pens); Deeside Ramblers 3 Reading 1, Leominster 1 Yate and South Glouce 0; Poynton 4 Springfield 0, Sevenoaks 4 York 1, St Ives (Cambridgeshire) 0 Bath 3

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Balsam Leicester 2 Trojans 0, Clifton 2 Slough 0; Doncaster 1 Ipswich 3; Sutton Canada Life 3 Hightown 0. **Leading positions:** 1, Ipswich 26pts; 2, Slough 22; 3, Clifton 22. **First division:** Bradford *Swithenbank 3 Chelmsford* Broadoak 1; Olton 2 Canterbury 0; Sunderland Bedans 2 Blueharts 0; Wimbledon 0 Bracknell 0. **Leading positions:** 1, Olton 30pts (champions), 2, Chelmsford Broadoak 20; 3, Wimbledon 20. **Second division:** *Loughborough Students* 1 Ealing 0; Old Loughtonians 1 St Albans 2, West Witney 5 Sherwood 3, Woking 3 Exmouth 1. **Leading positions:** 1, Loughborough Students 31pts, 2, Old Loughtonians 24, 3, Woking, 22

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: First division: Aberdeen Bon Accord 0 Bonagrass Grove 2; Edinburgh Ladies 4 Menzieshill 0; Heriot-Watt University 0 Western Klick Photopoint 8, Royal High Gymnasts 1 Western A 2.

RUGBY UNION

Five nations' championship

France 47 **Scotland** 20

France: Tries: *Benazzi, Dalmaso, Leflamand, Magne.* **Cons:** Lamaison 3. **Pens:** Lamaison 6. **Dropped goal:** Sadourny. **Scotland: Tries:** Tait 2. **Cons:** Shepherd 2. **Pens:** Shepherd 2.

(at Parc des Princes)

Wales 13 **England** 34

Wales: Try: Howley. **Con:** J Davies. **Pens:** J Davies 2. **England: Tries:** De Glanville, Hill, Stimpson, Underwood. **Cons:** Catt 4. **Pens:** Catt 2

(at Cardiff Arms Park)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	4	4	0	0	129	77	8
England	4	3	0	1	141	55	6
Wales	4	1	0	3	94	106	2
Scotland	4	1	0	3	90	132	2
Ireland	4	1	0	3	57	141	2

Courage Clubs Championship

Second division

Rugby 16 **Rotherham** 41

Rugby: Try: Barr. **Con:** Barr. **Pens:** Barr 3. **Rotherham: Tries:** Easterby 2, Binns, Bramley, Bunting, Harper. **Cons:** Ashworth *4. Pen: Ashworth*

Yesterday

Newcastle 53 **Nottingham** 17

Newcastle: Tries: Bates 3, Archer 2, Armstrong, Lam, Ryan, Shaw. **Cons:** Andrew *3, Stimpson. Nottingham: Tries:* Claydon, Hall, Wilcox. **Con:** Evans.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Richmond	16	14	2	0	721	267	30
Bedford	17	13	0	4	596	345	26
Coventry	16	12	1	3	605	252	25
Newcastle	13	11	1	1	738	171	23
Rotherham	16	10	0	6	445	429	20
L Scottish	14	7	0	7	351	380	14
Wakefield	14	7	0	7	320	353	14
Blackheath	16	5	0	11	394	454	10
Moseley	16	5	0	11	281	540	10
Waterloo	15	3	0	12	288	457	6
Rugby	16	3	0	13	212	769	6
Nottingham	17	1	0	16	271	695	2

LEADING SCORERS: 247: S Mason (Richmond; 8 tries, 63 conversions, 27 penalty goals). **201:** M Rayer (Bedford, 6t, 57c, 19pg). **190:** R Andrew (Newcastle, 3t, 62c, 16pg, 1 dropped goal). **187:** J Harris (Coventry, 4t, 40c, 24pg, 5dg). **171:** J Steele (London Scottish, 3t, 27c, 32pg, 2dg). *Tries: 16:* G Armstrong (Newcastle). S Quinnell (Richmond). **15:** J Bentley (Newcastle). **14:** A Smallwood (Coventry). **13:** J Fallon (Richmond). **12:** G Easterby (Rotherham). **10:** A McAdam (Coventry). **9:** A Bateman (Richmond), S Brown (Richmond), D O'Mahony (Moseley), C Quinnell (Richmond), T Underwood (Newcastle), B Whetstone (Bedford). **8:** M Hanslip (Blackheath), J Pagamore (Bedford).

Third division

Exeter 26 **Morley** 24

Exeter: Tries: Dixon, Thomas. **Cons:** Green 2. **Pens:** Green 4. **Morley: Tries:** Shepherd, Smith. **Con:** Grayshon. **Pens:** Grayshon 4

Harrogate 60 **Redruth** 24

Harrogate: Tries: Bram 2, Dixon 2, Bell, Farrar, Hopkinson, Reed, Easterby. **Cons:** Zoing 5, Dixon. **Pen:** Zoing. **Redruth: Tries:** Congo, Hawken, Wilkins. **Cons:** Saumi 3. **Pen:** Saumi

Leeds 74 **Lydney** 0

Leeds: Tries: Stephens 4, Appleson 2, Eagle, Griffin, Perego, Redacanu, Tupuloto. **Cons:** Tupuloto 7, Stephens. **Pen:** Tupuloto

London Welsh 33 **Walsall** 24

London Welsh: Tries: G Phillips, Riondet, Tucker, Vines. **Cons:** Raymond 2. **Pens:** Raymond 3. **Walsall: Tries:** A Walker, Taylor, *Wild.* **Cons:** Mills 3. **Pen:** Mills

Otley 34 **Liverpool St H** 25

Otley: Tries: Kirkby 2, Smith, Cadman, penalty try. **Cons:** Rutledge 3. **Pen:** Rutledge. **Liverpool St Helens: Tries:** Brett, Callaghan, Gaskell, Walker. **Con:** Brett. **Pen:** Brett.

Reading 54 **Havant** 13

Reading: Tries: Spencer 2, Costeloe, Hart, Dance, Pratt, Scharrenberg, Vatcher. **Cons:** Dance 7. **Havant: Try:** Rees. **Con:** Russell. **Pens:** *Russell 2.*

Rosslyn Park 18 **Fylde** 5

Rosslyn Park: Tries: Campbell-Lamerton, Fennell. **Con:** Holder. **Pen:** Holder. **Dropped goal:** Holder. **Fylde: Try:** O'Toole

Wharfedale 28 **Clifton** 11

Wharfedale: Tries: D Harrison, Hird, Mounsey, Walker. **Con:** Mounsey. **Pens:** Mounsey 2. **Clifton: Try:** Ashford. **Pens:** O'Sullivan 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fylde	23	19	1	3	667	325	39
Leeds	23	17	0	6	856	380	34
Exeter	21	16	0	5	619	335	32
Morley	21	15	0	6	617	389	30
Harrogate	22	13	0	9	568	462	26
Wharfedale	*22*	*13*	*0*	*9*	*526*	*432*	*26*
Otley	22	12	0	10	570	546	24
Reading	20	11	1	8	629	429	23
Rosslyn Park	20	11	0	9	381	401	22
L Welsh	23	10	0	13	466	572	20
Lydney	22	9	0	13	449	600	18
Liverpool St H	21	7	0	14	524	517	14
Walsall	21	6	0	15	433	648	12
Redruth	23	6	0	17	425	862	12
Havant	23	5	0	18	443	730	10
Clifton	23	4	0	19	412	957	8

LEADING SCORERS: **313:** S Gough (Fylde: 6 tries, 50 conversions, 59 penalty goals, 2 dropped goals). **262:** G Ainscough (Leeds: 9t, 35c, 49pg). **255:** C Raymond (London Welsh, 6t, 27c, 52pg, 5dg). **241:** P Rutledge (Otley: 7t, 46c, 38pg). **226:** R Mills (Walsall: 1t, 28c, 54pg, 1dg). **214:** P Morris (Lydney: 2t, 21c, 54pg). **201:** R Zoing (Harrogate: 2t, 43c, 32pg, 3dg). **187:** A Green (Exeter, 3t, 37c, 33pg, 3dg). **174:** J Dance (Reading, 4t, 44c, 22pg). **167:** P Brett (Liverpool St Helens, 12t, 31c, 15pg). **Tries: 17:** M Preston (Fylde). **16:** M Kirkby (Otley). **14:** A Hodgson (Wharfedale). **13:** G *Spencer (Reading), B Wade (Morley).* **12:** M Appleson (Leeds), R Bell (Harrogate), Brett, R Mathias (Leeds). **11:** G Anderton (Fylde), P Congo (Redruth), S Smith (Morley), S Tupuloiu (Leeds)

Fourth division north

Aspatria	18	Nuneaton	3
Hereford	18	Stoke-on-Trent	8
Lichfield	13	Birmingham/S	42
Preston Grass	15	Kendal	14
Sandal	15	Worcester	22
Sheffield	*21*	*Stourbridge*	*12*
Winnington Park	46	Manchester	31

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester	20	17	3	0	596	302	37
Preston Grass	19	14	2	3	425	236	30
Birmingham	20	14	0	6	536	297	28
Manchester	20	11	1	8	518	393	23
Winnington P	20	11	1	8	490	405	23
Sheffield	19	9	2	8	387	352	20
Stourbridge	19	9	1	9	465	478	19
Sandal	18	9	1	8	394	401	19
Aspatria	18	8	1	9	474	442	17
Lichfield	18	7	0	11	347	493	14
Kendal	18	6	1	11	333	339	13
Nuneaton	20	6	1	13	342	500	13
Hereford	19	4	0	15	232	590	8
Stoke-on-T	20	2	0	18	287	646	4

Fourth division south

Cheltenham	10	Newbury	27
Met Police	6	Barking	40
North Walsham	23	Plymouth	18
Tabard	38	Askeans	3
Weston-s-Mare	19	High Wycombe	13
Henley	34	Berry Hill	19

Yesterday

Camberley 92 **Charlton Park** 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury	18	18	0	0	753	211	36
Henley	*19*	*17*	*0*	*2*	[illegible]	*346*	*34*
Cheltenham	18	13	1	4	448	231	27
Met Police	19	12	0	7	495	399	24
Camberley	19	11	1	7	525	351	23
Barking	19	10	1	8	598	384	21
Plymouth	20	9	2	9	484	447	20
Tabard	18	7	3	8	331	311	17
Weston-s-M	18	7	0	11	416	337	14
H Wycombe	19	6	1	12	429	526	13
Nth Walsham	19	6	1	12	301	457	13
Berry Hill	18	6	0	12	326	510	12
Charlton Park	19	2	1	16	237	830	5
Askeans	19	1	1	17	232	663	3

SOUTH WEST. First division: Barnstaple 18 Gloucester Old Boys 8; Bridgwater 24 Matson 17; Camborne 8 Launceston 20; Maidenhead 65 Brixham 3; St Ives 10 Torquay 20; Stroud 23 Salisbury 9.

MIDLANDS: First division: Hinckley 28 Camp Hill 7.

NORTH: First division. Bridlington 27 Widnes 10; Broughton Park 20 Tynedale 35. Macclesfield 19 Bradford and Bingley 6. New Brighton 31 West Park Bramhope 22. Stockton 38 Sedgley Park 17; Wigton 18 Hull Ionians 17.

Anglo-Welsh competition

Group D

Bonymaen 58 **Rotherham** 20

Bonymaen: Tries: C Jenkins 2, Callaghan, J D Williams 2, Alvis, Beynon, G Williams, M Morris. **Cons:** Roberts 4. **Rotherham: Tries:** Lax, *Rick Smith.* **Con:** *Lax.* ***Dropped goal:*** Glynn

Welsh League

First division

Ebbw Vale 17 **Dunvant** 17

Ebbw Vale: Tries: Hayward, J Hawker. **Cons:** Hayward 2. **Pen:** Hayward. **Dunvant: Tries:** C Davies, N Davies. **Cons:** M Thomas 2. **Pen:** M Thomas.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Pontypridd	14	13	0	1	560	214	67	11	37
Swansea	14	9	0	5	565	270	80	15	33
Cardiff	14	9	0	5	497	[illegible]	66	8	26
Llanelli	13	8	1	4	436	217	59	9	26
Bridgend	13	8	1	4	431	267	54	7	24
Neath	14	7	0	7	367	[illegible]	52	6	20
Newport	14	7	2	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	48	3	19
Ebbw Vale	14	5	1	5	270	337	29	1	18
Dunvant	14	6	1	7	308	[illegible]	37	2	15
Treorchy	14	3	0	11	285	436	37	3	9
Caerphilly	15	1	0	14	253	537	35	6	8
Newbridge	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	12	[illegible]	695	29	0	4

Second division

SW Police 15 **Blackwood** 11

South Wales Police: Tries: D Thomas, Knight. **Con:** [illegible]. **Blackwood: Try:** G *Thomas. Pens: Hubbard* [illegible]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Llandovery	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	184	77	15	41
Cross Keys	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	74	10	36
Aberavon	[illegible]	10	1	[illegible]	490	[illegible]	[illegible]	12	33
Cardiff Inst	19	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10	27
Pontypool	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	398	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	26
Bonymaen	[illegible]	9	1	8	[illegible]	301	51	7	26
SW Police	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	405	[illegible]	57	6	25
Abertillery	17	10	0	7	[illegible]	299	41	5	25
Maesteg	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	13	[illegible]	417	[illegible]	5	17
Blackwood	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	304	[illegible]	37	3	15
Abercynon	16	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	209	[illegible]	25	2	8
Ystradgynlais	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	5

CLUB MATCHES: [illegible] 14 Oxford University [illegible] 17, [illegible] 41 Melrose 38 Langholm 19

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS: A international match: [illegible] (at Rodez). **Under-21 international match:** France 46 Scotland [illegible]. **Student international match:** [illegible] England 29 *(at Pontypridd).* **Club matches:** Aberavon 41 Bristol 20; Bedford 58 [illegible] 19; Boroughmuir 74 Stewart's Melville FP 28; Cross Keys 28 Newport 56; [illegible] 10 Kelso 48; Watsonians 19 Moseley 27; Northampton 30 [illegible] 16; Biggar 47, Nottingham [illegible]

Insurance Corporation League

First division

Blackrock Coll	15	Shannon	21
Dungannon	26	Old Crescent	21
Garryowen	19	Lansdowne	15
Old Belvedere	7	Cork Con	18
Old Wesley	24	St Mary's Coll	28
Terenure Coll	63	Instonians	11
Young Munster	*6*	*Ballymena*	*19*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shannon	9	8	0	1	230	119	16
St Mary's Coll	9	6	1	2	217	172	13
Lansdowne	9	6	0	3	234	117	12
Terenure Coll	9	6	0	3	219	142	12
Blackrock Coll	*9*	*6*	*0*	*3*	*179*	*141*	*12*
Garryowen	9	6	0	3	242	204	12
Ballymena	9	5	0	4	133	165	10
Cork Con	9	4	1	4	172	172	9
Dungannon	9	3	0	6	220	229	6
Old Crescent	9	3	0	6	157	190	6
Young Munster	9	3	0	6	160	208	6
Old Belvedere	9	3	0	6	158	216	6
Old Wesley	9	2	0	7	122	208	4
Instonians	9	1	0	8	124	284	2

Second division

Clontarf	29	Monkstown	18
DLSP	23	Bective Rangers	13
Derry	16	Sunday's Well	13
Dolphin	23	Skerries	17
Greystones	24	NIFC	12
Malone	30	Highfield	21
Wanderers	12	UCC	36

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dolphin	9	7	1	1	207	157	15
Clontarf	9	7	0	2	204	107	14
Bective R	9	7	0	2	191	103	14
Greystones	9	6	0	3	180	145	12
Skerries	9	5	0	4	145	141	10
Sunday's Well	9	4	1	4	201	214	9
Wanderers	9	4	1	4	157	204	9
DLSP	8	3	2	3	152	159	8
Malone	9	4	0	5	167	174	8
Monkstown	9	3	2	4	161	171	8
UCC	9	4	0	5	176	190	8
NIFC	9	2	1	6	170	231	5
Derry	8	1	0	7	128	179	2
Highfield	9	1	0	8	130	194	2

TOUR MATCHES: Belgium Under-19 0 British Colleges Under-19 64; Holland Under-21 3 British Colleges Under-19 44; Holland Under-19 10 British Colleges Under-19 16.

RORY UNDERWOOD TESTIMONIAL MATCH: Richmond XV 38 Leicester XV 48 (at Richmond)

Super 12 tournament

Transvaal 47 **Otago** 29

Transvaal Golden Lions: Tries: Johnson 2, Wiese, Vos, Van der Walt. **Cons:** Johnson 5. **Pens:** Johnson 4. **Otago Highlanders. Tries:** Burn, Ropati, Wilson, Randell. **Cons:** Brown 3. **Pen.** Brown

(at Johannesburg)

Auckland 26 **Waikato** 16

Auckland Blues: Tries: Z Brooke, Vidiri, penalty try. **Con:** Spencer. **Pens: Dropped goal:** Spencer. **Waikato Chiefs: Try:** McLeod. **Con:** Reihana. **Pens:** Reihana 2, Cooper

(at Albany)

Free State 35 **Queensland** 24

Free State Cheetahs: Tries: Swanepoel, Van Rensberg, Van Wyk. **Con:** De Beer. **Pens:** De Beer 5. **Dropped goal:** De Beer. **Queensland Reds: Tries:** Crowley, Drahm, Little. **Cons:** Eales 3. **Dropped goal:** Drahm.

(at Bloemfontein)

Wellington 64 **N Transvaal** 32

Wellington Hurricanes: Tries: Umaga 3, *Leslie 2, Allen, Hewitt, Maka. Cons: Preston 5*, Cunningham. **Pens:** Preston 4. **Northern Transvaal Blue Bulls: Tries:** Meiring, Bekker, Otto, penalty try. **Cons:** Van Rensburg 3. **Pens:** Van Rensburg 2.

(at New Plymouth)

Natal 35 **ACT** 26

Natal Sharks: Tries: Joubert 3, Minnaar. **Cons:** Lawless 3. **Pens:** Lawless 3. **Australian Capital Territory Brumbies: Tries:** Langford, Roff, Caputo, Larkham. **Cons:** Roff 3

(at Durban)

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Milan 37 Treviso 28, Padova 29 Roma 18, Catania 23 L'Aquila 20, Bologna 20 Rovigo 14; San Dona 23 Calvisano 27, Livorno 49 Colle*ferro 0.*

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL

FA PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER-16 TROPHY: Semi-final: Northumberland 4 West Midlands 2. **English Schools Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Quarter-final:** King's, Chester 3 Wolverhampton GS 2. **English Croydon Cup: Semi-final:** Croydon 3 West Sussex 0. **Other match:** King's, Canterbury 1 The Ursuline, Westgate-on-Sea 1

HOCKEY

Bradfield 4 Canford 3, Felsted 1 Gresham's 0; Hurstpierpoint 6 Ardingly 1, Kimbolton 0 Merchant Taylors', Northwood 2; St George's, Weybridge 1 KCS, Wimbledon 0. **MILTON KEYNES: Home nations' tournament: Final standings: Under-18:** 1, England 9pts, 2, Ireland 6; 3, Scotland 3, 4, Wales 0. **Under-16:** 1, England 9pts: 2, Ireland 4, 3, Scotland 4; 4, Wales 0.

LACROSSE

MILTON KEYNES: National schoolgirls championships: Semi-finals: St George's, Harpenden 1 St Helen's, Northwood 5; Queen Anne's, Caversham 0 Haberdashers' Aske's 1 (aet). **Final:** St Helen's, Northwood 1 Haberdashers' Aske's 3

RUGBY FIVES

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL: Under-13 national schools championships: Singles: Quarter-finals: C Muldoun (Edinburgh Academy) bt C Pople (Clifton) 11-7; S Wan (Pilgrims') *bt L Fellows (Clifton) 11-6,* S James (Merchant Taylors') *bt A Kauf (Merchant Taylors')* 11-2; T Alshar (Pilgrims') bt S Byron-Evans *(Clifton)* 11-4. **Semi-finals:** Muldoun bt Wan 11-4; James bt Alshar 11-0. **Final:** James bt Muldoun 11-1, 11-1. **Doubles: Semi-finals:** Edinburgh Academy II bt Pilgrims' II 11-4, Merchant Taylors' I bt Edinburgh Academy I 11-2. **Final:** Merchant Taylors' I bt Edinburgh Academy II 11-0, 11-0.

RUGBY UNION

Coopers' Coborn 12 *Dublin HS 18.*

WELSH SCHOOLS CUP: Semi-finals: Brynteg CS 17 Cross Keys Coll 0; Cowbridge CS 22 Tre-Gibs CS 7.

SURREY SCHOOLS SEVENS: Final: John Fisher 35 King's, Canterbury 10

HABERDASHERS' SCHOOLS SEVENS: Under-13: Monmouth 35 Adams 7, Haberdashers' Elstree 19 Aske's Hatcham 12; Adams 12 Aske's Hatcham 17; Monmouth 24 Haberdashers' Elstree 12, Adams 0 Haberdashers' Elstree 44, Monmouth 22 Aske's Hatcham 5. **Under-15:** Monmouth 31 Adams 12; Haberdashers' Elstree 17 Aske's Hatcham 14, Adams 0 Aske's Hatcham 29, Monmouth 25 Haberdashers' Elstree 0; Adams 0 Haberdashers' Elstree 21; Monmouth 26 Aske's Hatcham 26. **Senior:** *Monmouth 21 Adams 12;* Haberdashers' Elstree 19 Aske's Hatcham 24, Adams 26 Aske's Hatcham 16; Monmouth 34 Haberdasher's Elstree 14, Adams 22 Haberdashers' Elstree 5; Monmouth 17 Aske's Hatcham 5. **Fraser Bird cup winners:** *Monmouth.*

POINT-TO-POINT

DUNSTON HARRIERS (Ampton) **Confined** 1, Druid's Lodge (C Ward-Thomas, 7-1), 2, Counterbid, 3, Nibble. 9 ran. **Open Mdn I** 1, Faha Moss (S R Andrews, 2-1), 2, Fighting For Good; 3, Mirror Image. 8 ran. **Open Mdn II.** 1, Thurles Pickpocket (A Coe, 5-2), 2, The Prior; 3, Bozo Bailey. 9 ran. **Ladies** 1, Craftsman (Miss G Chown, Evens), 2, Subsonic, 3, Zoes Pet. 4 ran. **Men's Open:** 1, Over The Edge (S Sporborg, 4-7 fav); 2, Exarch, 3, Armagrat. 4 ran. **Restricted** 1, Ballyalthia Castle (N Bloom, 4-6 fav); 2, Ludoviciana, 3, Cool Apollo. 5 ran. **BFSS Nov Riders:** 1, Noble Knight (C Jarvis, 7-2), 2, Linred, 3, Berkana Run. 11 ran. **Hunt** 1, Saint Bene't (N King, 4-9 fav); 2, *Stoneyisland;* only 2 finished. 2 ran.

QUANTOCK STAGHOUNDS (Cothelstone) **Hunt:** 1, Belfry Lad (J Creighton, 7-4); 2, The Criosra, 3, Lochnaver. 5 ran. **Ladies;** 1, Slaney Food (Miss S Vickery, 13-2), 2, Bengers Moor; 3, Night Wind. 12 ran. **Land Rover Open:** 1, The Bounder (J Tizzard, 2-7 fav), 2, Riva, 3, Feile Na Hinse. 8 ran. **Confined.** 1, Qualitair *Memory (J Tizzard, 6-4 fav),* 2, *Milled* Oats, 3, Ive Called Time. 14 ran. **Rest I** 1, Swansea Gold (D Alers-Hankey, 3-1), 2, Gamay; 3, This I'll Do Us. 14 ran. **Rest II:** 1, He Is (Miss P Curling, 7-4), 2, Live Wire; 3, Venn Boy. 10 ran. **Mdn I:** 1, Nearly An Eye (J Tizzard, 4-6 fav), 2, *Celtic Goblin; 3, Faraday.* 15 ran. ***Mdn II:*** 1, Passing Fair (Miss S Vickery, 5-4 fav); 2, Mazzard; 3, Dollybat. 15 ran. **Mdn III:** 1, Major Sharpe (J Tizzard, 7-2); 2, Billy Barter; 3, The Bodhran. 14 ran.

HOLDERNESS (Dalton Park): **Hunt:** 1, Dromin Fox (J Dillon, 9-1), 2, Master Comet; 3, Grey Hussar. 6 ran. **Confined.** 1, Just Charlie (D Easterby, 5-4 fav), 2, Clyde Ranger; 3, Skipping Gale. 16 ran. **Men's Open:** 1, Peanuts Pet (R Walmsley, 4-6 fav); 2, Castle Tyrant; 3, Park Drift. 8 ran. **Ladies.** 1, Oxgathorpe (Mrs F Needham, 6-1); 2, Thistle Monarch, 3, Midge. 4 ran. **BFSS:** 1, Squires Tale (Mrs S Grant, 9-2); 2, Tom Log, 3, *Admission.* 13 ran. ***Open Mdn (7yo+):*** 1, Prophet's Choice (M Haigh, 12-1); 2, Dear Emily; 3, Lovel Vibes. 14 ran.

NEW FOREST BUCKHOUNDS (Larkhill) **Open Mdn (5-8yo) I.** 1, Wicked Imp *(J Jukes, 5-2); 2, Old Harry's Wife;* only 2 finished. 6 ran. **Open Mdn (5-8yo) II:** 1, Stillmore Business (T Mitchell, 4-6 fav), 2, First Bash, 3, Villains Brief. 10 ran. ***Mixed Open*** 1, Apatura King (T Mitchell, 4-7 fav); 2, Mediane; 3, Indian Knight. 6 ran. **Intermediate:** 1, King Torus *(J Jukes, 3-1);* 2, Nothing Ventured; 3, Thegoose. 8 ran. **Rest I:** 1, Sybillabee (Daniel Dennis, 14-1); 2, Balance, 3, Neville. 7 ran. **Rest II:** 1, The Man From Clare (L Lay, 20-1); 2, Daring Duck; 3, Colourful Boy. 10 ran. **Hunt:** 1, Tullykyne *Bells (Miss D Stafford), finished alone.* **Confined:** 1, Mighty Falcon (Miss E Tory, 6-4); 2, Touch Of Winter; 3, Wellington Brown. 3 ran

WESTERN (Wadebridge): **Men's Open:** 1, *Butler John (N Harris, Evens fav);* 2, Fearsome; 3, Glenform. 4 ran. **Open Mdn:** 1, *Chocolate* Buttons (H Thomas, 12-1), 2, Brook A Light; 3, Bucks Flea. 14 ran. **Rest:** 1, Gypsy Gerry (L Jefford, Evens fav), 2, Sunwind; 3, Eyre Point. 9 ran. **Intermediate:** 1, Dark Reflection (C Heard, 7-1); 2, Cornish Ways, 3, Mountain Master. 5 ran. **Confined** 1, Myhamet (A Farrant, 4-6 fav); 2, Onceoverheight; 3, Artistic Peace. 5 ran. **Ladies** 1, *Just Bert (Miss S Young, 1-3 fav); 2, Aristocratic Gold; only 2 finished.* 2 ran

No discretion in accepting jurisdiction

Pearce v Ove Arup Partnership Ltd and Others

Before Mr Justice Lloyd

[Judgment March 7]

English courts had to accept jurisdiction where an action was brought against an English domiciled defendant, whether with or without other defendants, for breach of a Dutch copyright, The Netherlands being a contracting state to the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, signed at Brussels in 1968 and to hear that action on the merits.

There was no room for the exercise of discretion or the application of the doctrine of forum conveniens.

Mr Justice Lloyd, sitting in the Chancery Division, so held, declining to strike out as non-justiciable an action for breach of a Dutch copyright against four defendants, one of which was domiciled in the United Kingdom, but striking out the action as regarded both English and Dutch copyright as an abuse of process on the basis that it had no chance of success.

Mr Adrian Speck for the plaintiff; Ms Heather Lawrence for the first defendant; Mr Christopher Floyd, QC and Mr Richard Hacon for the second, third and fourth defendants.

MR JUSTICE LLOYD said that the plaintiff complained of breaches of what he claimed to be his copyright as the author of drawings created by him as an architectural student. The drawings, for a town hall in Docklands, were never built.

He claimed that the second and third defendants, Mr Rem Koolhaas and the Office for Metropolitan Architecture respectively, had access to and took copies of his drawings and used them in substantial part in designing a building, the Kunsthal in Rotterdam.

The first defendant civil engineers, Ove Arup Parnership Ltd, retained for the construction of the building, were domiciled in the United Kingdom. The fourth defendant, the city of Rotterdam, was the owner of the building. The second to fourth defendants applied to strike out the claim as an abuse of process.

The first issue was whether the English court could hear an action for breach of a Dutch copyright against a defendant domiciled in the United Kingdom.

Apart from the effect of the Brussels Convention, an action in England complaining of breach of a foreign copyright would be bound to fail.

There were two reasons: a claim for breach of a foreign statutory intellectual property right was regarded as local, and should not be entertained by an English court: see *British South Africa Co v Companhia de Moçambique* ([1893] AC 602); *Def Lepp Music v Stuart-Brown* ([1986] RPC 273).

The *Def Lepp Music* case showed that such a claim would also fail because the choice of law rule as regards double actionability would not be satisfied: see rule 203 in *Dicey and Morris, Conflict of Laws* (12th edition (1993) p1487-8. That rule had been abolished by section 10 of the Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995 with prospective effect as from May 1, 1996.

The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 gave the Brussels Convention the force of law directly in the United Kingdom. An action for copyright was plainly within the scope of the civil and commercial matters to which the Convention applied: article 1.

The fundamental rule as to jurisdiction was laid down by article 2: a person domiciled in a contracting state was to be sued in the courts of that state. There were exceptions to that principle.

By article 5(3), the action for compensation for infringement of copyright being a matter relating to tort, delict or quasi-delict, could be brought in The Netherlands as the place where the harmful event occurred.

Article 6(1) permitted a person domiciled in a contracting state to be sued where any one of the defendants was domiciled. The first defendant was domiciled in the United Kingdom, so the other defendants could be sued in England on the basis of article 6(1).

English authorities were against the justiciability in the United Kingdom of foreign intellectual property rights: see *Mölnlycke AB v Procter & Gamble Ltd (No 4)* ([1992] RPC 21), *Plastus Kreativ AB v Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co* ([1995] RPC 438) and *L. A. Gear Inc v Gerald Whelan & Sons Ltd* ([1991] FSR 670).

By contrast courts in The Netherlands and Germany had accepted jurisdiction and granted remedies in respect of infringement of patents in other contracting states.

So far as his Lordship knew, this was the first English case in which the point had been argued. There was a reluctance to accept jurisdiction, for which there might be sound policy reasons, but the court had no discretion, to which policy considerations were relevant: either the case was not justiciable because of the *Moçambique* rule or rule 203, or it had to accept jurisdiction because article 2 prevailed.

Within the ambit of the Convention forum conveniens and similar rules no longer applied. Following the repeal of rule 203 English courts could not refuse to adjudicate on an action against an English-domiciled defendant based on an infringement of a legal right under the law of another contracting state to which English law had no equivalent.

In circumstances of increasingly international dealings it might be said to be convenient to be able to sue a person for infringment of intellectual property rights in two or more contracting states by one action in the court of domicile instead of proceeding separately in each relevant jurisdiction.

The Convention did require an English court to accept jurisdiction where an action was brought against an English-domiciled defendant, with or without other defendants, for breach of a Dutch copyright, and to hear that action on the merits, and thus to override, so far as was necessary for that purpose, the *Moçambique* rule and rule 203, even though neither was a rule of jurisdiction.

Each of them, to the extent that they would preclude the English court from hearing such an action, would impair the effectiveness of the Convention by frustrating the operation of the basic rule in article 2, and therefore had to give way to allow the jurisdictional rules of the Convention to have their proper effect.

In so far as the action was based on allegations of the breach of Dutch copyright, it should not be struck out as non-justiciable. However, the action should be struck out as an abuse of process on the basis that it had no chance of success.

Solicitors: Sheratte Caleb & Co; Berrymans; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

'Sold' for valuation means transferred property

Jones and Another v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment February 14]

For inheritance tax purposes a contract for the sale of the deceased's property which was not completed did not give rise to an eligible claim for relief under section 191 of the Inheritance Tax Act 1984, as renamed by section 100 of the Finance Act 1986.

Although in an appropriate context "sold" could mean "agreed to be sold", in sections 190 to 198 of the 1984 Act, provisions concerned with various aspects of valuation, it had to mean "conveyed or transferred on completion of a sale".

Mr Justice Lightman, on the hearing of an originating summons in the Chancery Division so held, refusing to grant the plaintiffs, the personal representatives of William Robert Balls, deceased, a declaration that the value of his interest in Brook Farm, West Bergholt, Colchester, was not the probate valuation of £477,000 but the sale price of £300,150 agreed by a contract made in June 1991, being within three years of the date of the death.

Section 191 of the 1984 Act provides: "(1) Where — (a) an interest in land is comprised in a person's estate immediately before his death and is sold by the appropriate person within the period of three years immediately following the date of the death ... the value for the purposes of this Act of that interest shall ... be its sale value..."

Section 198(1) provides: "... the date on which an interest in land is sold or purchased by the appropriate person shall for the purposes of this Chapter be taken to be the date on which he enters into a contract to sell or purchase it."

Mr David Parry for the plaintiffs; Mr Michael Furness for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that the plaintiffs claimed that the value of Brook Farm that formed part of the deceased's estate was and remained the sale price agreed by a contract for its sale for £300,150 made in June 1991.

The contract was never completed, the purchaser forfeiting the deposit. The plaintiffs contended that for the purposes of section 191 of the 1984 Act the entry into that contract was a sale.

The Crown contended that what was required was a completed sale: a contract which proved abortive was not such a sale.

His Lordship said the meaning of "sold", like the word "paid", dependended on the context: it might mean "agreed to be sold" and it might mean "conveyed or transferred on completion of a sale": consider per Lord Hoffman in *Charter Reinsurance Co Ltd v Fagan* (*The Times* May 26, 1996; [1996] 2 WLR 726, 764-765).

In the appropriate context, "sale" might be an appropriate term to denote a contract and the legal consequence of a specifically enforceable contract for the sale of land, and most particularly the vesting in the purchaser of the full equitable title, albeit subject to the vendor's rights under the contract including his "unpaid vendor's lien". At issue was whether that was an appropriate context. Part VI of the Act was concerned with various aspects of valuation.

Although the provisions extended to sales made for any reason during the statutory period, extended by section 199(1) of the Finance Act 1993 from three to four years for persons dying after March 16, 1993, the provisions were particularly directed to providing relief for persons who were compelled to sell in order to pay the inheritance tax attributable to the value of the interest sold.

Where there was a fall in the value of the interest sold because of a change in market conditions between the death and the sale, it might be unjust and unfair to require tax to be paid on the higher value at death rather than the value at the date of sale and the moneys received on sale.

But the focus in sections 190 to 198 of the Act was on the interest sold. A sale was the precondition to any relief.

Under the 1991 contract the interest agreed to be sold was the legal freehold which was to pass on completion. The 1991 contract, because it was specifically enforceable, passed the equitable freehold title.

The question raised was whether the sale contemplated by section 191 was of the legal title on completion or of the equitable title on execution of the contract. In the context of sections 190 to 198 it was clear beyond question that "sold" meant "conveyed or transferred on completion of a sale".

Solicitors: Ellison & Co, Colchester; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Automatic timetable ceases on stay of proceedings

Whitehead v Avon County Council

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment February 10]

The automatic directions for the timetabling of proceedings under Order 17, rule 11 of the County Court Rules (SI 1981 No 1687/L20) ceased to apply if an action was stayed. However, a court should always consider whether it was appropriate to impose its own time limits to such an action.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Avon County Council, against the decision of Judge Batterbury at Bath County Court on March 24, 1995 that the personal injury action of the plaintiff, Cynthia Whitehead, had not been automatically struck out by virtue of the automatic directions under Order 17, rule 11 of the 1981 Rules.

On September 6, 1993 the action was stayed "pending the examination of the plaintiff by [Dr X] and pending the provision by the plaintiff of a suitable form of authority enabling [Dr X] to have full access to the whole of the plaintiff's general medical records."

Mr Andrew Collender, QC and Mr Christopher J. Russell for the defendant; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Peter Langlois for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER said that the difficult question raised on the appeal related to the effect of an order staying proceedings on the automatic directions laid down by Order 17, rule 11: in particular, whether the automatic strike out under rule 11(9) occurred despite there being in place an order for a stay as at the "guillotine date" that is, the date 15 months after the close of pleadings or nine months after the date fixed by the court for requesting a hearing date.

In construing the rules his Lordship bore in mind that their aim was to take matters out of the hands of the parties so far as timetabling was concerned. But as *Downer & Downer Ltd v Brough* (*The Times* January 19, 1996; [1996] 1 WLR 575) showed: (a) if orders were inconsistent with the automatic directions those directions might well cease to have effect, and (b) the aim of the rules could also be achieved by the court itself making appropriate orders.

There was no reason why a court should not make an order about which there could be no argument. In a case such as the present an order could have been made "staying the action pending examination by Dr X, that examination to take place by (a date), and the plaintiff to be obliged to apply by (a further date) to fix a date for trial from which date the nine-month period shall run under Order 17, rule 11(9)".

Certainly if an order were in the above form his Lordship could see no objection on the basis of a stay having been ordered, to a plaintiff being entitled to apply to extend the periods of time if he could show reasonable grounds for doing so; for example, if an appointment could not in fact be fixed by the date chosen, or pending an appeal or whatever. The imposition of a stay certainly could not prevent an application to extend the time set by the very order imposing the stay.

However, if the court itself made an order staying proceedings without words in the order preserving a date by which the plaintiff was obliged and able to request a hearing, an order for a stay was inconsistent with the automatic directions.

The inconsistency seemed to be clear in that the stay prevented the plaintiff, or either party, taking any of the steps under paragraph (3) which they would otherwise be bound to take for at least some period. It followed that the automatic directions ceased to apply and paragraph (9), the automatic strike-out provision, must also cease to apply.

The defendant had stressed that if the automatic directions did not apply in a case where a stay had been imposed on a plaintiff in default, that seemed to place that plaintiff in a more favourable position than a plaintiff who was not in default.

The answer to that was twofold. First, by seeking a stay, a defendant was in fact seeking to use the inherent jurisdiction of the court, recognised by rule 11(4)(a), which would include powers to impose time limits or "unless" orders.

Since to obtain a stay the defendant would go before the court, it lay within the defendant's power to seek an order worded so as to retain an automatic strike out, or some other order impacting on the plaintiff in default.

Of equal importance, it also lay within the court's own power to impose conditions that had that effect. Consistent with the aim of the rules themselves, consideration should always be given by a court ordering a stay as to whether the case was not one suitable for insertion of a timetable along the lines suggested above expressly preserving paragraph (9), as applying by reference to a date for requesting the fixing of a trial. If the defendant obtained such an order, the plaintiff in default would have none of the advantages suggested.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Bennett Metcalfe, Bristol; Faulkners, Frome.

Proviso no longer exists

Regina v Foley
Regina v Melville

For section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, which contained the proviso that an appeal might be dismissed if the Court of Appeal considered that no miscarriage of justice had occurred even if the point raised on appeal might be decided in the appellant's favour, section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1995 substituted the ground for allowing the appeal that the Court of Appeal thought that the conviction was unsafe. No practitioner should be under the misconception that the proviso was still part of our law.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Timothy Walker) so stated on February 10 when refusing the application of Shaun Foley for leave to appeal, and dismissing the appeal of Carl McKenzie Melville against their convictions on February 16, 1996 at Teesside Crown Court (Mr Recorder Davey and a jury) of robbery.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that although the summing up was less thorough that it should have been, the strength of evidence was overwhelming and the convictions were safe.

It had been stated in the Crown's skeleton argument that it would be argued that the proviso should apply. When it was pointed out that the proviso had not been part of our law for more than a year, counsel said that his misconception was shared by many practitioners. If that were the case, which might be doubted, the sooner the misconception disappeared the better.

Eligibility of applicants for housing

Regina v Southwark London Borough Council, Ex parte Bediako
Regina v Westminster City Council, Ex parte Zafru

Before Mr Stephen Richards

[Judgment February 19]

The eligibility of a homeless applicant for accommodation and assistance under Part III of the Housing Act 1985 was to be determined with reference to the circumstances existing when the housing authority had completed its investigations, not at the date of the application.

Mr Stephen Richards, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so stated when dismissing applications by Augustine Bediako and Georghe Zafru, for judicial review of decisions of the London Borough of Southwark and Westminster City Council respectively, that they were no longer eligible for help.

Section 9(2) of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, denied the benefit of the homelessness provisions of the 1985 Act to asylum seekers who arrived in the UK after February 5, 1996 and did not claim asylum upon arrival. Both applicants arrived after that date and did not claim asylum upon arrival, but did apply for accommodation to housing authorities before the 1996 Act came into force on August 19, 1996.

In each case the housing authority had been carrying out inquiries pursuant to section 62 of the 1985 Act but on August 19, 1996 decided immediately to discontinue giving any help on the basis that the applicants' eligibility under the 1985 Act had ceased.

Mr Jan Luba for the applicants; Miss Josephine Henderson for Southwark; Mr Thomas Hill for Westminster.

HIS LORDSHIP said that it was common ground that that very issue had already been decided adversely to the applicants by Mr Justice Carnwath in *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Shelter* (unreported, August 23, 1996). He was bound to follow that decision unless convinced it was wrong.

The applicants had contended that section 9(2) of the 1996 Act could have no effect on an application under Part III of the 1985 Act prior to its coming into force, for a number of reasons.

It was submitted that on its plain words, section 9(2) had only prospective effect on future applicants and that eligibility was to be determined once and for all at the date of the initial application.

His Lordship rejected that approach, pointing to the different stages of duties that existed under sections 62 to 64 of the 1985 Act. At each stage matters were to be looked at in the present tense rather than by reference back to the time of the application. If an applicant no longer satisfied the statutory conditions at the time of the final decision, he was not entitled to any rights under the 1985 Act.

His Lordship mentioned *R v Newham London Borough Council, Ex parte Smith* (*The Times* April 4, 1996) in which it was held that the relevant date for considering whether an applicant had a local connection with a housing authority for the purposes of Part III of the 1985 Act was the date of the application. That case did not entail the more general conclusion that the date of the application was the material date for other purposes, and did not alter his Lordship's conclusion.

Second, it had been argued that if section 9(2) did apply to applications made before it came into force, it effected an implied partial repeal of Part III of the 1985 Act, and that section 16(1) of the Interpretation Act 1978 would apply to save pre-existing rights.

His Lordship said that the only right that the applicants had aquired was to require the housing authorities to inquire into their applications and provide interim accommodation. Once section 9(2) came into effect, the only conclusion that the housing authorities could reach would be that the applicants were not eligible and would determine their applications accordingly.

Neither could the common-law principle, that a statute should not be interpreted as having retrospective effect so as to impair existing rights unless unavoidable, be relied upon for the reason that section 9(2) did not in reality have retrospective effect, if so construed.

His Lordship took the view that *Ex parte Shelter* was correctly decided.

Solicitors: Thomas & Co, Camberwell Green and Ms Sally Morshead; Dr Clive Grace, Southwark; Mr Colin Wilson, Westminster.

Challenging contract conditions

Sheffield v Pickfords Ltd and Another

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Thorpe and Sir Ralph Gibson

[Judgment February 11]

A plaintiff who wished to challenge the reasonableness of standard conditions in a contract relied on by a defendant to exclude liability did not have to raise the issue in the pleadings.

Where defendants were intending to rely on such standard conditions the better practice would be for them to include in their defence a statement that the conditions were reasonable.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Kristina Sheffield, against the decision of Mr Recorder McIntyre at Uxbridge County Court on August 8, 1995 refusing her leave to file a reply so as to plead the unreasonableness of standard conditions relied on by the defendants, Pickfords Ltd and Pickfords Removals Ltd, and giving judgment for the defendants in an action for breach of contract and negligence.

Ms Michelle Stevens-Hoare for the plaintiff; Ms Naomi Ellenbogen for the defendants.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the point arising for consideration was one of importance with regard to the proper approach to pleading actions for breach of contract. The issue arose because of the provisions of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977.

In their defence, the defendants had set out various of their standard provisions on which they said they were entitled to rely, the effect of which was either to exclude liability or to reduce their liability if they were shown otherwise to be liable.

The recorder had held that if there was going to be an issue as to the reasonableness of the conditions raised, then the obligation of the plaintiff was to make that clear in the pleadings.

Once the point was taken then the onus would be upon the defendant to establish that the conditions in question were reasonable.

The plaintiff submitted that where a pleading made it clear that the defendants were going to rely upon standard conditions, then it was implicit in that pleading that they were saying that those standard conditions were reasonable. Therefore that then became an issue in the proceedings with the consequence that if no reply was filed, that was a live issue which the defendants had to be prepared to meet at the hearing.

Alternatively, the plaintiff said that there was an obligation on the defendants to set out that the conditions were reasonable so as to make it clear that that was a requirement of the 1977 Act of which they were aware and which they were prepared to fulfil. The requirement of reasonableness was a condition precedent to the reliance upon the standard conditions which were being prayed in aid

The defendants submitted that it was asking too much of them to draw that matter to the attention of the other party which would amount to an open invitation to take a point that the conditions were not reasonable. It was for the plaintiff to trigger the issue by at least indicating that she was putting the matter in issue.

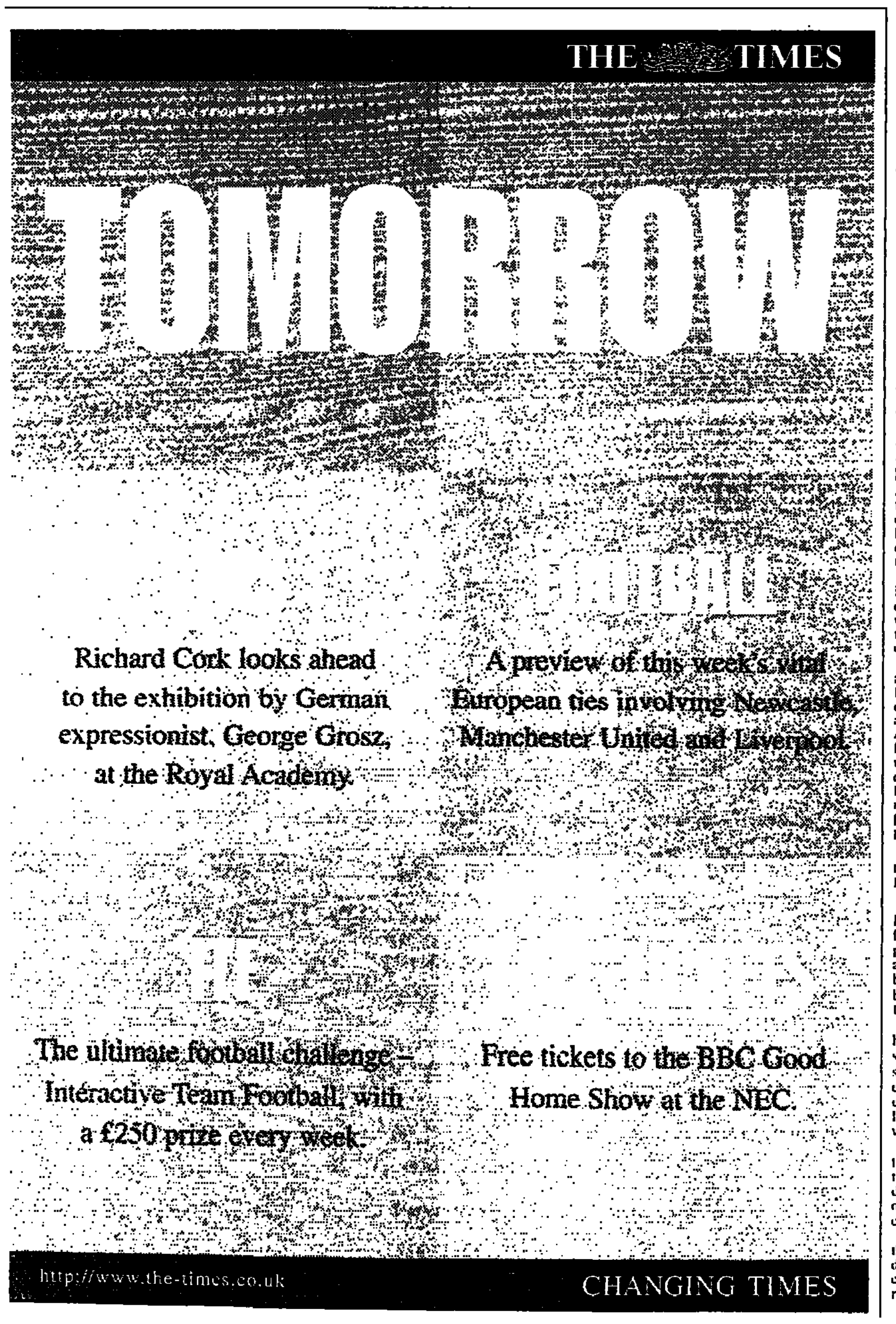
His Lordship was satisfied that, at the least, where defendants were relying on terms to which the Act applied, there was an implication that the terms were those upon which they were entitled to rely having regard to the provisions of the Act.

Furthermore, his Lordship would go further and say that there were advantages in defendants setting out clearly and squarely that they contended that the contract provisions were reasonable.

They could then take the course of requiring the plaintiff to clarify her position, to say whether or not she was taking the point. If she was taking the point, then the defendants were in a position to have the necessary evidence at the hearing to establish the matter.

Lord Justice Thorpe agreed and Sir Ralph Gibson gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Aslam Heath; Vaudreys, Manchester.


THE TIMES
TOMORROW
Richard Cork looks ahead to the exhibition by German expressionist, George Grosz, at the Royal Academy.
A preview of this week's final European ties involving Newcastle, Manchester United and Liverpool
The ultimate football challenge, Interactive Team Football, with a £250 prize every week
Free tickets to the BBC Good Home Show at the NEC.
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CHANGING TIMES

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Manganese Bronze, Tay Homes. **Finals:** Alexon, Argos, Astec (BSR), ASW Holdings, Bunzl, Dmatek, Eclipse Blinds, English China Clays, Gowrings, Hammerson, Metalrax, Monument Oil & Gas, Pearson, Spandex, TT Group, Wilson Bowden, Yorkshire Group. **Economic statistics:** EU finance ministers meeting.

TOMORROW

Interims: Dorling Kindersley Holdings, IAF Group, Paterson Zochonis, Wolseley. **Finals:** Britannic Assurance, Broadcastle, BSG International, Cakebread, Robey, Charter, Claremont Garments, Dairy Farm International, Delta, DRS Data & Research, James Fisher & Sons, Glynwed International, Graseby, Hall Engineering Holdings, Hardy Oil & Gas, Law Debenture Corp, Lopex, Manders, Mayborn Group, Meggitt, Roxboro Group, Secure Trust Group, TC Group, Wassall, Watmoughs Holdings, Wilson (Connolly). **Economic statistics:** UK PSBR (February), Italy industrial output (January), US housing starts (February).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Beazer Group, Britt Allcroft, BZW Endowment Fund, Semple Cochrane, Wew Group. **Finals:** Aegis Group, Bowthorpe, Broadcastle, Cairn Energy, Cantab Pharmaceutical, Devro, Evans Halshaw Hldgs, EW Fact, Exco, Hat Pin, Hong Kong Land Hldgs, Independent Newspapers, Kingfisher, Mandarin Oriental Hldgs, Marley, Bernard Matthews, Premium Trust, Rexam, Television Corporation, Trinity International Hldgs, United Carriers Group, Vickers, Weir Group. **Economic statistics:** UK unemployment (February), UK average earnings and unit wage costs (January), UK retail sales (February), UK minutes of monetary policy meeting held on February 5, US consumer prices index (February).

THURSDAY

Interims: McBride. **Finals:** Abbott Mead Vickers, Albright & Wilson, Airtech, APV, British Borneo Petroleum, Brixton Estate, Burford Holdings, Courtaulds Textiles, Datrontech Group, Edinburgh Oil & Gas, Foreign & Colonial Investment, Guinness, Jardine Matheson, Jardine Strategic, Keller Group, Kwik-Fit Holdings, Wm Morrison, National Express Group, Queen's Moat Houses, Rugby Group, Servisair, Steel Burill Jones, Telspec, TDS Circuits. **Economic statistics:** UK retail prices index (February), UK motor vehicle production (February), UK provisional M4 money supply (February), UK final M0 money supply (February), UK BBA bank lending to private sector (February), UK BSA building society net lending (February), UK CBI industrial trends survey (March), US trade deficit (January), US weekly jobless claims report.

FRIDAY

Interims: Fortnum & Mason. **Finals:** Frost Group, Speciality Shops, Wace Group. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

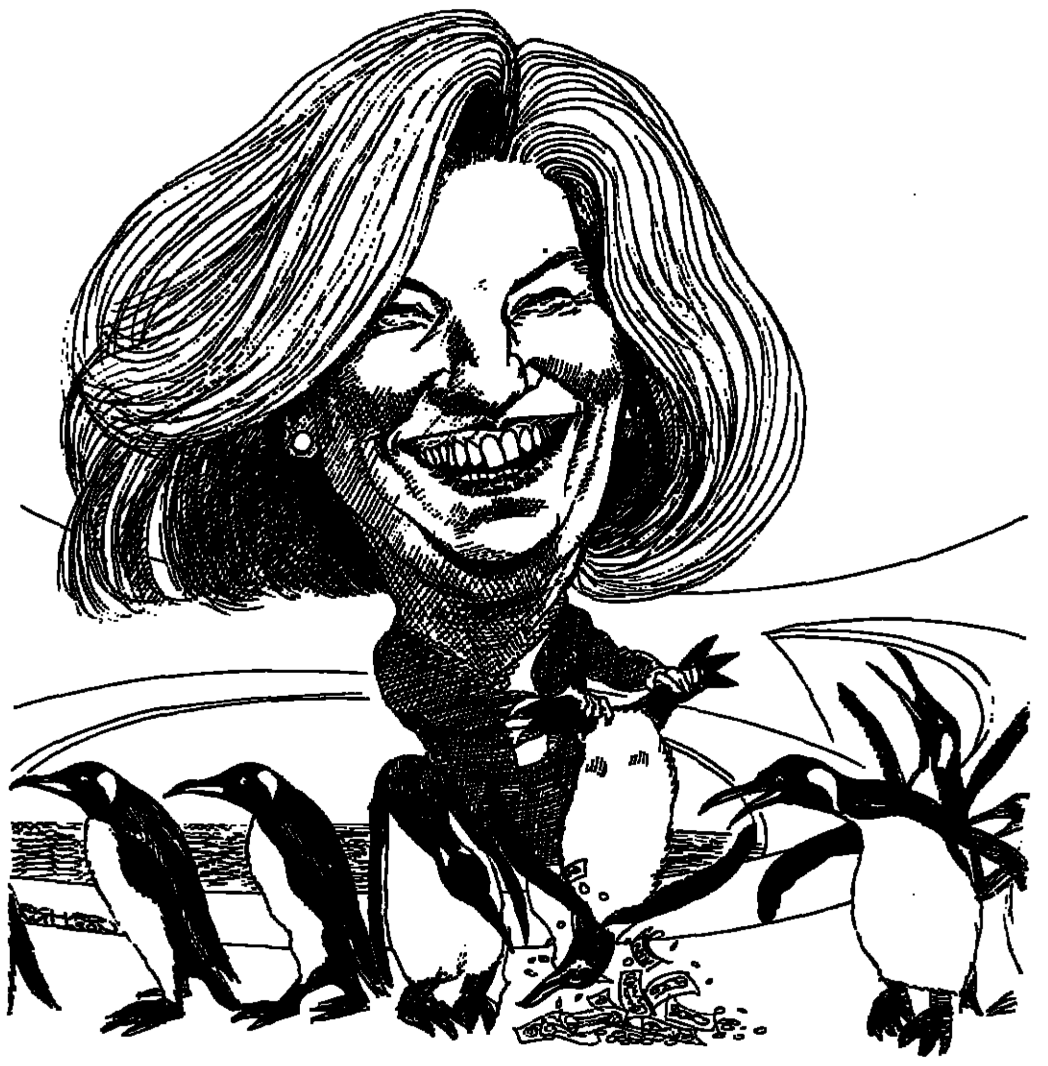
Pearson strategy under scrutiny

PEARSON: Today's full-year figures will be overshadowed by the comments of Marjorie Scardino, the new chief executive, who makes her first appearance in the Square Mile. The City will want to question her closely on the future media strategy for the group, further disposals and even the £100 million hole that has opened up at Penguin Publishing in New York as a result of unauthorised discounting.

The results are unlikely to hold many surprises after last month's trading update that accompanied the revelations at Penguin. Pretax profits are expected to have grown from £235.7 million to between £242 million and £262 million, with earnings likely to have fallen from 28.8p to 28.6p.

The flurry of acquisitions and disposals during the period, including the purchase of the education publishing interests of HarperCollins for £381 million and the disposal of Westminster Press for £305 million, make it difficult for accurate forecasting. But shareholders should be rewarded with a near 10 per cent increase in the dividend to 18p.

GUINNESS: Brokers are agreed that we should see a flat performance when the drinks group unveils full-year numbers on Thursday. Pre-tax profit estimates are pitched in a narrow band ranging from £950 million to £958 million compared with £940 million. United Distillers will have struggled to make headway as figures at the half-way stage indicated. Flat operating profits of about £570 million are envisaged, with declines in sales in Europe and the US. Japan is also likely to have failed to lived up to expectations. A small increase in earnings, from 32.9p to 33.7p, has been pencilled in, with the payout growing 9 per cent to 16.25p.



Marjorie Scardino of Pearson. The City will want to know more about future policy

ARGOS: There are unlikely to be any surprises in today's full-year figures in the wake of January's shock profits warning. The group has already indicated that the final outcome will be about £140 million, compared with £124.4 million last time, although some estimates are as low as £137 million. Like-for-like sales for the full year are likely to be up 8 per cent, with much of that improvement achieved in the first six months. There is expected to be a small rise in the gross margin, but a shift in costs is likely to depress trading margins.

KINGFISHER: Unlike Argos, the Woolworth, Comet, B&Q and Superdrug chain store is likely to have enjoyed 1996 when it reports full-year numbers on Wednesday. Brokers are looking for pretax profits of £380 million, compared with £287 million last time. Earnings are also likely to show a sharp improvement, with 40.4p pencilled in against 31.6p last time. Last month's Christmas trading statement confirmed that the group was on course for a bumper profits improvement while, at the same time, grabbing market share across the board. B&Q will prove to be a star performer after a number of years in the doldrums. The payout is expected to grow 14 per cent to 18.5p net. But brokers will be anxious about the outlook for the current year. Trading conditions will prove tougher, with the weakness in the French franc causing concern.

WOLSELEY: Expansion in America, which now accounts for almost half of all group profits, will provide the key to tomorrow's half-year figures from the building products supplier. The recovery in the domestic housing market and the growth in construction output should also prove helpful. The only black spot remains Europe where there is likely to be a further decline in profitability from France. Profit forecasts are pitched at about £122 million, compared with £111 million last time. A figure of £255 million has been pencilled in for the full year.

VICKERS: Solid performances from its defence and automotive arms will be crucial to full-year figures on Wednesday. If Rolls-Royce Motors has maintained its margins during the second half in the run-up to the launch of a new range of models with BMW engines some time this year, then it will have done well. The defence division should record a small improvement in margin as deliveries of the Challenger 2 tank to the Ministry of Defence continue. The figures are also likely to be marked by a return to profits by the medical side for the first time since 1994. Pre-tax profits will have grown by about £10 million, to £85 million, with earnings almost 9 per cent ahead at 17.1p. An increase in the payout of almost 15 per cent to 7.7p is forecast.

WM MORRISON: Fierce competition in the high street will result in a lacklustre performance from the northern supermarket chain when it unveils full-year figures on Thursday. These should show pre-tax profits up just 4 per cent, from £127.8 million to £132.3 million, with the outlook for the current year likely to be even tougher. The group's performance should be marked by a slowdown in both like-for-like and new store sales, plus an increase in costs of sales. Even so, shareholders are likely to be generously rewarded, with an 18 per cent rise in the payout forecast to 1.63p net.

ALBRIGHT & WILSON: A mixed performance is expected when final figures are reported on Thursday, with any improvement in its specialities and surfactants offset by an erosion of profits at its dominant phosphates operation. Pre-tax profits are likely to come in at £65.5 million, compared with £57.5 million last time, while earnings per share should have grown 11 per cent, from 13.1p to 14.6p. The dividend should be 6 per cent higher, at 6.85p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

PSBR data to set tone

BRITAIN has a heavy schedule of economic statistics this week, kicking off with February figures for public borrowing tomorrow. The market is expecting a public sector borrowing requirement of £3.9 billion, according to a consensus forecast compiled by MMS International. This compares with the £5.8 billion repayment of borrowing in January, a bumper month for corporation tax.

On Wednesday, the minutes of the monthly monetary meeting held on February 5 are released and will be closely scrutinised for any softening of Bank of England demands for higher base rates.

Also on Wednesday, February retail sales figures are released and are expected to show a rise of 0.3 per cent, considerably weaker than the 0.6 per cent increase in January. This would leave sales volumes 3.8 per cent higher than a year ago compared with a year-on-year increase in January of 4.6 per cent.

These figures coincide with the latest labour market data. Unemployment figures for February are expected to show a decline in headline unemployment of 37,500 compared with January's drop of 68,000. Annual growth in average earnings in January is expected to be 4.25 per cent, the same rate as in December.

On Thursday, the retail prices index for February is published. The headline inflation rate is expected to have remained the same as in January at 2.8 per cent while underlying inflation, which the Government aims to get to 2.5 per cent or less, is expected to fall to 2.9 per cent from 3.1 per cent.

February's M4 broad money supply figures are expected to show a rise in annual growth, back to 10 per cent from 9.8 per cent in January. Building society mortgage lending is expected to have risen by about the same as in January. The statistical week ends on Friday with the monthly CBI trends survey.

JANET BUSH

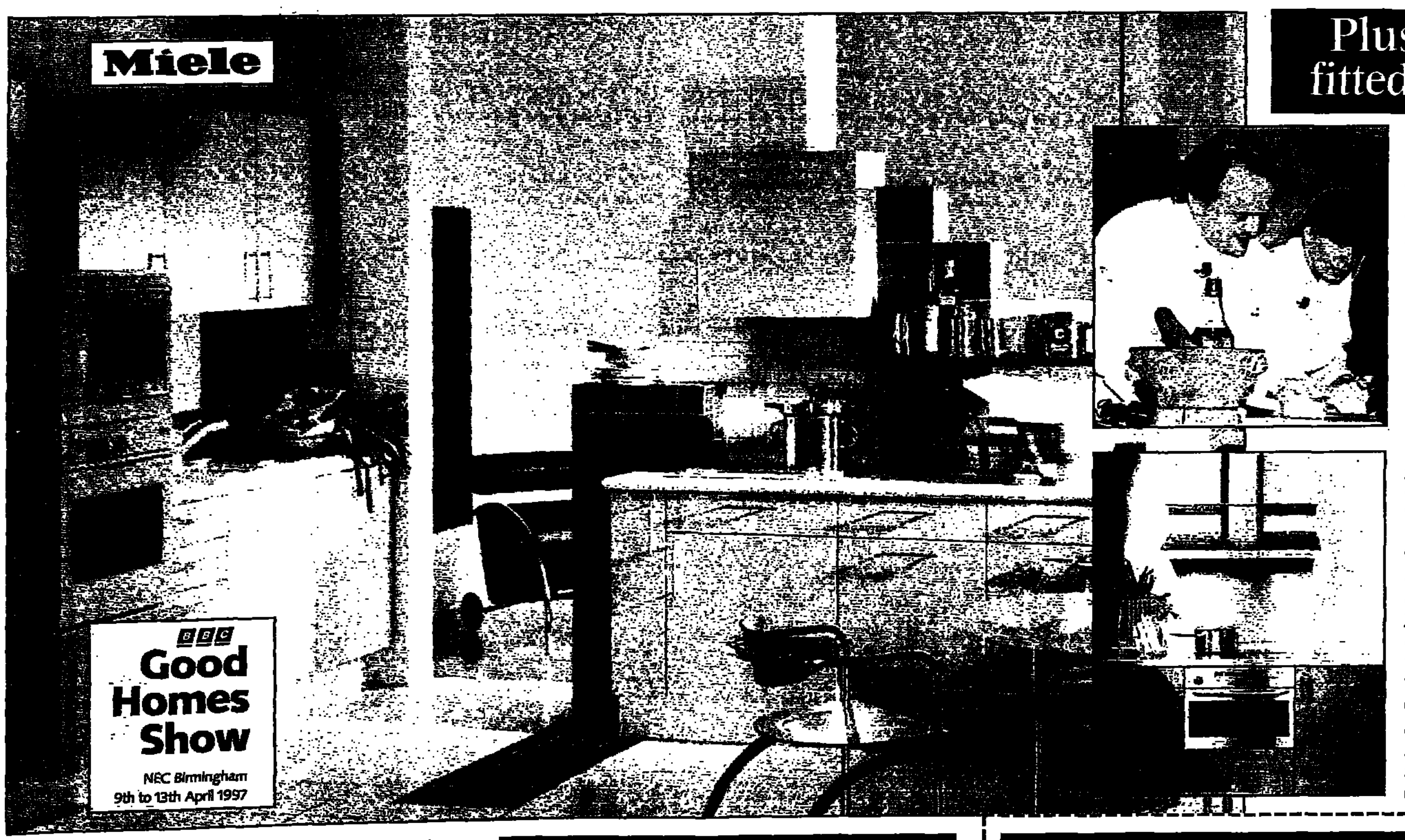
SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Telegraph: *Buy* Argos, Yorkshire Group: *Add* Surrey Free Inns. **The Sunday Times:** *Buy* Flextech, Babcock *International, Johnson Group.* **The Observer:** *Sell* Rentokil, Memory Corporation, Scotia Holdings. **Independent on Sunday:** *Sell* Shield Diagnostic, BAT Industries: *Buy* Freepages. **The Mail on Sunday:** *Buy* Ryland, IMS Group, Railtrack, Meggitt, Pearson, Vickers.

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

FREE BBC *Good Homes Show* tickets

Plus a £10,000 Miele fitted kitchen to be won



The Times offers you a FREE ticket, worth at least £7.50, for the first ever BBC *Good Homes Show.* The event, at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from Wednesday to Sunday, April 9-13, will be packed with new ideas and advice covering every aspect of home decoration and furnishing. You can view the latest products of more than 150 exhibitors and get tips from experts at live demonstrations and forums.

You can also meet the teams from top BBC shows at the Lloyds Bank Insurance Direct Celebrity Theatre, including Home Front, Antiques Road Show and Changing Rooms Live. They will advise on objects from their fields which can add to your home. Tickets for these sessions cost £4 and can be pre-booked by calling **0121-767 4000.**

To get your free show ticket collect three differently numbered tokens from the six appearing this week. Send them with a stamped sae, marked on the front which day you wish to attend, with the form to the address below. You will be entered in a prize draw for a fully-installed Miele kitchen worth £10,000. The kitchen has already been christened at last week's BBC *Good Food Show* by celebrity chefs Gary Rhodes, Antony Worrall-Thompson, Ainsley Harriott and Raymond Blanc. Plus there are pictures of them in action in the kitchen to be won.

The fully-installed Miele kitchen, as seen at the BBC *Good Food Show*, has stylish limed-oak fronted kitchen units, metal-framed glass-fronted units and a stainless steel roller shutter unit. The worktop, from Bald, incorporates a stainless steel onset sink with chrome mixer tap. The prize also has a stainless steel Miele single oven, microwave, four-burner gas hob and extractor canopy.

For a Miele brochure, call 01235 554488.

THE TIMES
THE BBC
GOOD HOMES
SHOW
TOKEN 1

MORE PRIZES TO WIN THIS WEEK

This week in *The Times* you could win:

- an iron bed and feather mattress from Adrian Reynolds and the Featherbed Company with bedlinen from Cologne & Cotton
- a cane furniture suite from Kiani UK
- an Advanced Shower System
- Kilim-covered stools from Clockhouse Furniture
- Paint Magic decorating courses.

BBC *Good Homes Show* hotline 0121-767 4000.

THE TIMES FREE TICKETS TO THE BBC GOOD HOMES SHOW

Attach three differently numbered tokens to this form with a stamped sae, clearly marked on the front which day you wish to attend. Send it to: *The Times*/BBC Good Homes Show, PO Box 1143, London W3 8EQ. Only one free ticket per sae and three tokens allowed subject to availability.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other .... Initials....................

Surname ....

Address ....

....

Postcode .... Day tel ....

IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS:

Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) each week?

....

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less)?

....

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

....

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐

CHANGING TIMES

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,789.80	Allied Domecq	461	+ 4	6.4	13.9
330.50	Bulmer (HP)	626	+ 1	2.7	18.6
41.80	Burn Stewart	70½		6.0	74.9
138.00	Glenmorangie A	1015	+ 10	1.5	27.6
10,331.30	Grand Met	491½	+ 12½	4.0	15.9
9,199.10	Guinness	487½	+ 4	3.9	15.1
493.20	Highland Dist	370	+ 1	2.8	17.8
285.00	Matthew Clark	322	+ 1	9.3	15.4
11.00	Merrydown W	100½	- 5½	5.7	13.6
5,667.30	SA Breweries	1921¼	+ 43¾	1.8	.

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
13,141.50	ABN-AMRO	4334¾	- 128¾	2.7	17.5
11,030.90	Abbey Natl	784	+ 19	4.2	13.9
2,937.30	Allied Irish	436½	+ 2	4.2	.
5,719.20	Aus New Z	383½	+ 3½	4.9	
29,103.90	Bank America	7137½	- 262½		
4,177.50	Bank Scotland	349	- ½	2.6	12.8
16,849.20	Barclays	1108½	- 5½	3.6	11.2
3,013.00	Bk of Ireland	626½	+ 7	3.3	14.2
35,445.40	Citicorp	7325	- 318¾		
7,470.60	Commerzbk	1868¾	+ 34¾	2.7	
21,637.10	Dai Ichi Kan Y	681¼	+ 9¾	0.6	
16,846.90	Deutsche Bk	3368¾	+ 31¾	2.0	...
193.70	Espirito Santo	906¼	- 3½	3.8	12.6
20,351.70	Fuji Bank Y	702½	- ¼	0.6	
13,798.60	HSBC	1584	- 32½	3.3	13.5
27,420.20	HSBC Hk	1531	- 38½	3.4	13.0
511.70	Irish Perm	595	- 5	2.7	..
27,985.10	Lloyds TSB	532½	+ 7½	3.2	16.9
11,710.40	Nat Aust Bk	793	+ 8½	5.4	10.3
12,569.70	Nat West	735½	- 8½	4.9	11.0
4,549.50	Ryl Bk Scot	555½	- 35½	4.2	12.3
8,321.10	Stand Chartd	846½	- 43¾	3.1	15.3
16,061.10	Wells Fargo	£164¾	..	2.0	
6,663.90	Westpac	350¾	+ 3¾	4.0	10.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
7,610.70	Bass	859	+ 13	3.6	16.9
16.70	Brit for the Bdr	83½	- ½	3.4	17.4
39.20	Burtonwd Brw	188½		3.7	17.0
299.90	City Centre Rest	154½	+ 1½	1.8	29.1
2,257.30	Compass Gp	710½	+ 4	1.5	28.1
61.00	Eldridge P 'A'	287½	- 1	3.3	17.6
68.10	Fuller Sm 'A'	482½		2.4	16.1
1,628.60	Greenalls Gp	551½	- 4½	3.5	17.4
449.60	Greene King	741½	+ 1½	2.7	18.3
30.60	Grosvenor Inns	215½		3.5	30.8
52.50	Groupe Chez Ger	280½	- 1	1.3	27.4
59.30	Hardy Hanson	296½	- 2	4.5	13.5
79.80	Holt J	2750	- 12½	2.6	14.8
54.50	Inn Business	72	- 3½	2.7	
232.40	Mansfield	357	+ 1	2.2	16.4
263.80	Mrston Thmp	291½	- 2½	3.2	10.9
197.00	Morland	610	+ 5	2.8	16.1
4.46	Paramount	37½	- 2		
437.60	PizzaExpress	666	+ 33	0.5	43.5
40.70	Ramsdens (H)	437½	+ 35	1.4	
303.30	Regent Inns	341½	- 6	0.9	32.7
4,319.00	Scot & New	700	+ 33½	3.6	21.2
403.60	Vaux Group	285	- 7	4.6	13.6
452.00	Wetherspoon JD	1155	- 1½	1.0	25.9
3,945.50	Whitbread	808½	+ 5	3.5	16.4
473.50	Wolvrhmptn D	702½		3.0	15.5
203.70	Yates Bros	488½	+ 11	1.0	31.6
18.00	Young 'A'	620		3.1	24.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,806.20	Electrocomps	424	- 4½	2.1	35.7
117.40	Eurodis Elect	200	- 3½	3.1	38.5
66.90	Eurodollar	136½	- ½	5.5	11.9
44.30	European Mtr	83½	- 6½	8.0	8.4
81.10	Evans Halshaw	252½	- 7½	8.2	9.9
7.83	File Indmar	50½		8.2	7.6
252.70	Finelist Grp	380½	- 6	2.1	19.2
36.20	Gardiner	33½	+ ½	3.5	12.8
21.40	Glencheaton	71	- 1	2.4	
9.21	Gowrings	103½	- 2½	3.3	17.6
27.30	Hamlet	91½	- 2½	8.2	8.5
28.50	Harris (Philip)	259		4.2	15.8
196.50	Headlam	320	+ 4	2.3	26.5
5.81	Holders Tech	149		5.0	14.0
91.80	IGA Intl	225	+ 1½	1.6	.
1,374.90	Inchcape	260	- 9½	3.9	22.2
5.67	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
423.40	Kwik-Fit	240	+ 12½	2.7	19.3
375.50	Lex Service	330	- 10½	6.1	10.9
35.20	Lookers	108½	- 1	9.7	6.8
22.50	Malaya Grp	13¾		6.1	
60.00	Middlesex	7½	- ½	1.3	11.5
30.50	Midstates	39		0.8	
27.30	Norbain	260	+ 7½	3.8	7.2
54.00	Normanber	158½	- 5½	1.1	9.5
168.70	Parkcity	350	+ 3	3.0	
152.30	Pendragon	393½	- 1½	3.2	
57.00	Perry Gp	222½	+ 11	5.2	..
1,391.40	Premier Farnell	512½	+ 21	2.8	19.9
33.80	Quicks Group	145½	- 7	5.6	10.9
29.40	REA	323½	- 4½	1.5	38.8
3.98	Reece	2½			
30.60	Ronson	23	- ½	8.2	7.9
4.43	Ross Gp	3			
25.10	Rylands	98½	+ 1½	5.7	15.9
25.90	SEP Inds	28¾	+ 1½	7.6	7.7
15.80	Saltire	61	+ 3½	2.0	19.8
224.90	Time Products	415	- ½	3.3	17.0
26.80	UMECO	233	- 8½	2.6	16.7
189.90	Vardy (Reg)	335½		2.6	14.6
88.10	WF Elect	612	+ 1	2.7	22.2
39.50	Wichaw	38	+ 1½	2.8	11.2
110.20	Wyko	158½		2.1	18.5
31.60	Young (H)	142½		3.7	12.3

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
638.10	Antofagasta	406	+ 7½	1.6	15.8
254.30	Ascot Hldgs	315	+ ½	2.1	
16,748.90	Broken Hill	843	+ 6½	3.0	18.8
11,201.30	BTR	278½	+ 2½	4.4	15.0
16,777.10	BAT	540½	- 10	6.2	11.4
302.40	Bibby (J)	193½	+ 9	4.8	11.3
1,516.40	Brierley Inv	56¼	- 3¼	8.1	9.5
690.20	Charter	782½	+ 21½	4.5	17.1
1,691.30	Cookson	248½	+ 7	4.4	17.6
36.00	Cosalt	211		5.8	10.2
246.20	DCC	304½	- 2	2.8	12.1
138.90	Grampian Hdg	124½		6.3	12.8
902.50	Harrisn Crsfld	128½	- 13	9.3	11.3
15,951.80	Hutch Whamp	441	- 30	2.3	17.9
3,282.00	Imperial Tobacco	438	+ 21½	5.7	8.8
2,652.60	Jardine Math	369½	- 7¾	4.2	
1,233.50	Lonrho	157½	+ 10	3.8	14.3
106.50	McLeod Russel	171½	- ½	4.9	14.0
369.40	Powell Duffryn	428½	+ 3½	7.3	16.8
33.90	Raynor	145		7.1	12.5
219.40	Staveley	189	+ 10½	6.1	13.5
4,833.10	Swire Pacific	497¼	- 35½	2.6	18.0
551.10	TT Group	335	+ 5	2.6	16.0
3,364.30	Tomkins	282	- 1½	4.6	14.0
39.90	Unidare	205	- 5	8.9	
114.80	Wardle Storeys	446½	- 4½	5.3	16.6
709.20	Wassall	363½	+ 9½	2.1	22.3
70.90	Whitecroft	160		3.9	12.8
1,910.60	Williams Hldg	328½	- 4½	5.5	14.7

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
67.70	Simon Eng	43	+ 2½	1.9	16.0
75.90	Six Hundred	137½	- 6½	4.3	2.7
2,508.60	Smiths Ind	822½	+ 29	2.5	21.1
517.60	Spirax-Sarco	656	+ 11	2.9	17.0
85.10	Sterling Ind	380	- 8	4.0	14.1
2,794.10	TI	587	+ 46½	3.1	19.2
18.30	Tinsley (E)	112½	- 1	6.6	11.7
198.10	Transtec	119½	- ½	2.4	21.3
122.70	Triplex Lloyd	186½	- 6	4.7	10.5
63.30	Unicorn Intl	166½	- 1	4.1	14.8
28.00	Utd Inds	62½	- 2½	4.9	17.8
895.40	Vickers	266	- 4	3.3	16.4
10.90	Villiers Grp	9¼	...		
320.30	Vitec	659	+ 23	2.3	11.8
293.50	Vosper Thorny	908	- 7	3.3	15.2
164.00	Wagon Ind	306½	- 17½	8.1	9.4
443.50	Weir	220	+ 3½	4.3	13.7
60.50	Wellington Hdg	256½	...	4.0	...
42.40	Wellman	29	- 1	7.8	6.3
17.80	Wescol	67	- 3½	2.2	21.8
138.00	Whatman	529	- 1	2.9	21.7
6.66	Whitney	55		8.0	16.6

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
106.80	Adwest	179	+ ¼	7.6	18.2
16.60	Airflow Stream	195		5.1	8.4
203.80	Avon Rubber	755	+ 8	3.2	14.6
294.60	BSG	99½	- 4	4.1	15.5
43.50	Bostrom	257½	...	3.3	10.6
10.90	Boustead	16½	...	7.6	38.7
108.70	First Tech	688	- 1	1.7	20.4
3,621.80	GKN	1026	+ 8	3.3	15.5
25,298.90	General Mtr	3559¼	+ 271¼	3.5	.
285.70	Hartlyst	539	+ 5½	3.5	12.7
17,742.40	Honda Motor	1821½	- 79½	0.4	
507.70	Laird	357	- 2	4.3	10.8
2,956.10	LucasVarity	206	- 1	0.0	.
415.60	Mayflower	165		1.7	30.8
41.40	Sylone	170½		4.3	12.5
851.50	T & N	160	+ 3	4.8	...
6.47	Toad	38½	- 1½		
189.60	Trinity Hldgs	338½	+ 5	3.1	17.2

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,603.50	AB Food	511½	+ 23½	2.3	16.8
130.30	Acatos & Hutch	299½	- 1½	4.2	40.4
310.50	Albert Fisher	43½	+ 1	10.8	10.6
28.10	Banks (S C)	302	+ 3½	4.7	11.4
75.60	Barr (AG)	389½	- 3	2.8	21.1
18.80	Bensons Crspt	37	- 3½	3.4	9.3
857.00	Booker	350½	+ 7	8.3	13.8
17.50	Borthwick	30	+ 2	5.4	37.8
28.00	CPL Aromas	213½	- 4	3.0	10.8
5,545.50	Cadbury-Schw	554	+ 15	3.9	14.8
16.20	Canadian Pizza	89½	- 5	7.0	
25.50	Carrs Milling	319		4.1	10.3
47.00	Caughart	70	- 5	6.6	
33.50	Cranswick	236	+ ½	5.1	13.8
236.10	Dairy Crest Group	213½	- 3	5.3	10.5
951.50	Dalgety	328	- 3	8.6	27.9
16.30	Daniels S	40	- ½	0.6	.
424.00	Devro	266½	- 9	3.7	26.3

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
63.00	Dunedin Smlr	375	+ ½	3.0	39.9
278.40	Dunedin Wwide	166	- ½	1.4	66.4
235.60	Edin Dragon	87½	- 2½	..	
24.30	Edinburgh Inca	29½	+ ¼		
1,082.70	Edinburgh	368½		3.5	32.0
38.50	EFM Japan	111	- 4½		
810.10	Electra Inv	468	- 2½	2.2	43.8
244.50	Electric Gen	270½	+ 2	1.7	58.4
78.80	English Nat	189½	- 18½	0.3	...
2.03	English Scot	154½	- ¼	...	...
99.80	European Asset	397	..	1.3	
105.30	Fidelity Asian Val	102½	- 1		
143.60	Fidelity Euro Val	251½			
41.90	Fidelity Jap Val	39½	- 2	0.3	
48.60	Fidelity Spec Val	132	- ½	0.5	
36.10	Finsbury 'A'	225½	...	2.2	50.8
176.70	Five Arr Chile	193½	+ 2	1.6	56.3
0.48	Five Arr Wts	29¼			
300.80	Fleming Amer	433½	+ 4	0.8	
45.20	Fleming Chinese	74¾		0.8	
3.42	Fleming Ch Wts	28½			
190.10	Fleming Claver	325	+ 1	2.5	
282.40	Fleming Contl	432½	+ 10	1.2	..
132.60	Fleming Em Mkts	137	- 1½	0.2	
99.80	Fleming Entpr	249½	- ½	2.7	31.6
412.00	Fleming F East	272½	- 1½	0.6	
52.90	Fleming Fledg	420	- 1	0.6	
87.70	Fleming Ing Inc	109		10.9	...
68.30	Fleming Ing Cap	169¾	- 1½		
45.60	Fleming Indian	49½	- ½		
3.40	Fleming In Wts	20¼			
344.60	Fleming Japan	178	- 3½		
552.70	Fleming Merc	382½	+ 3½	2.6	40.6
46.50	Fleming Nat Res	113½	- ¾	0.6	
464.10	Fleming Ovsea	349½	+ 2	1.6	71.9
42.60	Fleming Smllr Cot	159½	+ 1	3.5	33.6
1,702.60	Foreign & Col	162	+ ¼	1.7	74.8
41.10	F&C Inc Gwtl	95	+ 2	4.7	27.9
199.60	F&C Eng Mkts	106½	- 1½		
134.40	F&C Enterprise	143	+ ¼	2.1	...
303.70	F&C Eurotst	327	+ 4	0.5	...
58.90	F&C German	149¾	+ 1½	0.6	
360.40	F&C Pacific	156½	- 1	1.5	54.5
87.60	F&C PEP	148½	+ 2½	3.5	34.3
193.70	F&C Smaller	185	+ 2½	1.6	73.7
67.20	F&C US Smlr	133½			
23.90	Franklin Inc	61	- ½	10.2	10.9
21.40	Franklin Cap	88	+ 1½		
2.33	Frami Dual Cp	66½	+ 1		
3.01	Fulcrum Cap	18½	- ¼		
2.98	Fulcrum Inc	35½	+ ¼	38.9	2.5
15.50	Fulcrum Zero	180	+ ¼		
128.20	Gartmore Britt	256½	+ 1	4.1	
11.10	Gartmore Enlt	246	+ 1½	2.2	48.0
43.10	Gartmore Euro	211½	+ 2	0.9	
30.30	Gartmore Shott	89	+ 3	13.9	8.2
52.80	G'more Smlr Cos	387	+ 2	2.0	68.3
51.30	Geared Inc Inv	90	+ ½	12.0	9.9
41.40	Genl Cons Cap	228½	- 1½		
39.00	Genl Inc	107¼	- ¼	12.1	9.8
48.90	German Inv	124½	+ 2	0.5	
97.10	Gov Asn Sm Cos	259	- 2	0.3	
42.00	Gov Emg Mks	110½	- 1½	0.3	
44.60	Govett Am Smlr	179	- 7		
18.90	Gov Glob Smlr	86½			
38.70	Govett High Inct	81	- 1½	8.6	14.0
606.50	Govett Oriental	168½	+ 1	0.5	
358.90	Govett Strategic	365½	+ ½	2.4	43.4
59.50	Greenfriar	491½	+ 6	1.8	70.0
0.47	Gresham House	11	+ 1½	..	2.0
64.50	GT Inc Growth	119¼	- ½	3.4	
110.40	GT Japan	177	- 7	1.2	76.1
101.50	Guin Fl Er Inc	101½	- ½	9.5	12.2
18.80	Henderson Am Cp	50	- ½		

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
12.30	Murray S/C Cap	220	+ 16½	..	
5.60	Murray S/C Inct	70	+ ½	20.6	5.7
1.94	Murray S/C Ulst	3750	+ 100	3.9	
764.00	Murray Small	470½	- 5½	1.3	69.5
98.10	Murray Vent	397	- 1½	4.7	22.0
1.99	Newmarket	5¾			
154.30	O'seas Inv Tst	405	+ 8	1.1	.
3.73	O'seas Wts	208	+ 3		...
152.80	Pacific Assets	117½	- 2	0.4	...
188.80	Perp Inc Gth	108¼	- ¼	2.0	
16.70	Perpetual Jap	45½	- 1½		
50.00	Perpl Uk Sm Co	357½	- 2½	0.8	75.5
27.60	Personal Assets	£136	+ 100	2.0	47.6
46.90	Pilot Inv	135½	- ½	2.1	51.6
64.50	Prolific Inc	123½	- 11	4.8	28.3
447.30	RIT Cap Ptnr	247	- 2	0.8	
	Robeco	534¾	+ 16½	2.2	
	Rolinco	544½	+ 15	1.2	
140.30	Schrd Asia Pac	100½	- 2½	0.2	
105.20	Schrod Inc Gwth	133	- 2	3.8	25.3
68.10	Schrod Jap Gwth	56½	- ¼		
30.90	Schrod Korea	498½	+ 1		
8.00	Schrod Split Cap	28½	- ¼		
64.50	Schrod Split Inct	114	+ ½	9.0	
55.40	Schrod Split Zero	146½	+ ½		
297.30	Schrod UK Gwth	133	- 1	2.8	26.0
189.60	Schrod Vent Intl	196½	- 2		
837.40	Scot	295½	- ½	2.5	47.9
403.60	Scot American	180½	+ ½	3.6	36.1
85.00	Scot Asian	302½	- 3½		
4.75	Scot Wts	815	- 30	...	...
687.00	Scot Eastern	110	+ ½	2.2	..
1,099.50	Scot Mtge	296½	+ ½	2.0	50.0
157.30	Scot Natl Tst	98½	- 1	10.5	11.5
62.40	Scot Value	124		2.0	61.3
399.80	Second Alliance	2082½	- 13½	2.9	41.0
352.30	Secs Tst of Scot	110	+ ¼	4.2	29.4
30.40	Shires Smlrt	156	+ 3½	4.8	25.1
131.80	St Andrew Inv	383	- 1	3.2	
229.40	Temple Bar	399	- 3	5.0	22.7
149.40	Thmlo Asian E	125			
261.30	Throgmorton	86	+ ½	3.3	41.1
698.20	Tplton Emg Mkt	146½	- ½	9.8	
401.60	TR City Of Lon	183½	+ 1½	4.0	29.9
261.20	TR Euro Growth	173	+ ½	2.5	
99.00	TR Far East	176½	- 4½	4.8	26.6
37.30	TR High Inct	134	+ 1½	6.0	18.6
228.00	TR Pacific	114½	- 3½	0.3	
177.70	TR Property	37½	+ ½	3.3	28.0
431.20	TR Smlr Cost	242	+ 2½	2.0	44.9
126.90	TR Tech Invt	349	+ 1	3.6	43.6
26.70	Today Trust	270		1.7	
125.10	Undervalued Act	162½		1.8	59.7
67.90	Value Inc Tst	150½	+ ½	3.7	34.1
81.90	Value Real	87¾			
10.30	Voyageur Er Sm	101½	+ 2	0.7	
29.40	Warrants & Val	36½	+ ¼		
17.00	Wigmore	83½	+ 1	1.8	52.8
1,094.00	Witan	291½	+ 1	2.9	41.0
20.20	Yeoman Inct	82	+ ½	23.0	5.3

LEISURE & HOTELS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
28.30	ABI Leis	85½	- 1½	7.1	8.4
1,360.00	Airtours	998½	- 32	2.0	20.4
53.10	Ald Leis	45	- ½	2.3	25.8
73.80	Arcadian	50	- 1½	2.6	64.9
10.10	BS Group	152½	- 2½	3.7	
25.30	Baldwin	132½		3.8	
36.90	Barr & Wall	347½	+ 21	5.6	15.3
84.10	Bluebird Toys	197½	+ 12½	5.9	
152.90	Boosey Hwks	780	+ 7½	1.2	36.0

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
103.20	Hozelock	433½	- 3	3.2	15.9
317.70	Jarvis Hotels	180½	- 3½	0.7	
143.10	Jurys Hotel	337	+ 17¼	2.5	18.1
62.80	Kunick	27		3.2	17.7
2,864.60	Ladbroke	244	+ 1	3.2	26.5
572.80	London Clubs	404½	+ 14½	2.4	36.8
131.60	MacDonald Htls	224½	- 1	2.2	24.4
413.40	Man Utd	637	- 10½	1.0	42.4
568.30	Mandarin Ortl	81	+ 1½	4.2	18.1
579.10	Millennium & Copt	400½	+ ½	1.5	16.9
107.70	Northern	227½	- 2½	2.4	22.7
15.70	Prism Leisure	184½	+ 1	4.1	9.9
35.20	Queensborough	34½	- ½	.	
55.10	Queens Moat	14¼	- 1		
3,674.40	Rank Grp	439	- 5	5.0	44.0
29.80	Ryan Hotels	45½		4.7	9.2
410.40	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1435	+ 15	1.2	56.0
51.20	Sinclair (Wm)	225½	+ 6	4.5	13.0
23.80	Southampton	87½	- 2½	1.4	
808.20	Stakis	106	- 1	2.5	17.3
347.10	Stanley Leisure	315½	- 4½	1.4	31.4
8.22	Tandem	8½	- ¼		
1,300.10	Tanyong	348		1.5	22.1
1,157.40	Thistle Hotels	187½	+ 3½	2.5	18.3
111.10	Tottenhm Hot	111	- 1½	1.0	14.8
21.10	Toy Options	100½	+ 2	4.4	8.1
102.50	VCI	263½		3.4	14.9
164.50	Vardon	125¼	- ½	1.9	18.0
213.50	Wembley	392½	- 5	0.6	12.7
6.82	Zetters Gp	96		13.0	10.4

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Government Support for Business

BMB INITIATIVE

dti Department of Trade and Industry

MEDIA

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
59.80	GGT Group#	223		3.4	15.5
247.00	GWR Gp	228½	+ 1	1.4	39.6
59.50	Gearhouse Group	385½	+ 3	3.0	19.2
13.10	Goodhead	32½	+ 1	1.0	19.8
91.30	Grampian	277½	- 2½	2.8	22.2
297.90	HTV Group	338½	- 13	1.5	...
18.60	Haynes Pub	282½		4.9	12.7
17.60	Highbury Hse	19½			...
77.10	Hodder H'line	218½	- ½	3.7	22.1
26.30	Home Counts	262½		2.6	29.9
126.80	IBC	323½	+ ¼	3.2	12.1
44.40	Incepta	26½	+ 3½	...	17.8
1,092.80	Independent	327½		3.0	38.8
4.69	Intereurope	102	- 3	4.8	12.1
403.60	Johnston Press	201½	- 1	1.4	21.9
15.30	Lopex	28½		2.4	..
171.90	MAID	197½	+ 15		
124.40	Maiden	316½	+ ½	1.9	37.9
17.40	MediaKey	32	+ 3	3.8	
130.00	Metal Bulletin	1212½		2.1	34.9
216.50	Midland Ind	157	+ 10	3.1	
897.10	Mirror Gp	213½	+ 2	2.7	14.7
275.00	Mons Gp	661	- 9	2.9	..
6,459.70	News Corp	332½	+ 4	0.5	8.7
2,765.60	News Corp Pref	283	+ 5	1.3	
18.70	On Demand Inf	34	- 3½		
8.38	Osprey Comms	28½	- ½		12.9
4,419.90	Pearson	774	- 12½	2.8	31.1
40.10	Phonelink	83	- 4		
109.80	Portsmth Sund	840		2.0	16.9
43.00	Quarto	234	+ 1½	4.3	
6,708.10	Reed Int	1181	- 5	2.8	21.9
10,936.30	Reuters	647½	- 2	2.3	20.9
99.30	Scott Radio	370½	- 12	2.6	19.9
412.00	Scot TV	881		3.5	21.6
74.40	Standwick	54½	- 1½	3.3	10.0
6.00	Sleepy Kids	20		0.6	7.5
79.60	Southnews	504	+ 2½	1.6	27.6
11.90	Sterling Pub	25½			50.1
115.60	Taylor Nelson	32½	- ½	1.8	24.6
47.70	Telewision Cp	192½	+ 1	1.3	
7,773.30	Thomson Corp	1305½	- 38½	3.5	27.4
686.60	Trinity Intl	482	+ 17	2.9	38.2
90.70	Ulster TV	167		3.6	16.3
3,790.90	United News	770½	+ 33	3.9	50.2
7.83	VTR	72½		8.2	5.8
94.90	Visual Action	189½		2.7	15.5
2,020.30	WPP	272½	+ 11	0.8	19.8
88.80	Wilmington	124½		0.3	38.6
644.50	Yorkshire TV	1167½	- 97½	1.9	30.3

MINING

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,101.50	Ang Am Coal	4371¼	+ 9¾	3.2	
9,052.10	Ang Am	3875	- 96½	2.2	15.3
1,110.00	Ang Am Gold	4596¼	- 16½	3.3	.
15.30	Anglo Pac Res	18½	- ¼		
130.30	Arcon Intl	47	- 1½		..
847.80	Ashanti	890½	+ 6½	2.1	
272.10	Ashton	97½	- ¼	5.8	
70.90	Avocet	225½	- 13½		
78.00	Bakyrchik	196	- ¼		
347.90	Beatrix	370	+ 1	5.3	17.1
3.52	Bisichi	33½		2.8	.
40.50	Blyvoors	80	+ 7	..	
119.90	Bougainville	30	- 3½		
1.95	Butte#	1¾			
6,056.30	CRA	942½	+ 11½	3.7	18.0
449.70	Central Pacific	448¼	- 24		
5.36	Cons Murchison	86	- ¼	5.7	2.8

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
184.60	Rutland Tst	81½	- 1½	2.6	18.3
19.30	SEC Group	117	- 6	5.1	10.4
52.30	S & U	442½		4.7	11.2
2,559.40	Schroders	1695	- 52½	1.5	18.3
670.50	Schroders N/V	1490	- 42½	1.7	
324.80	Singer & Fried	162		3.3	11.9
6.16	Towry Law	40		...	...
2.92	Tno Hldgs	3½		...	
24.60	Usmr	92½	- 3½	4.1	9.9
28.80	Winterstt	335	...	4.8	15.8

PHARMACEUTICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,679.40	Brit Biotech	358	- 8	...	..
160.10	Cantab Pharms	1020	+ 135	..	
475.00	Celltech	625	- 20	.	
418.00	Chiroscience	387½	- 6½	.	
331.70	Cortecs	256½	+ 25		
40,429.50	Glaxo Well	1139½	+ 51	3.7	19.8
322.60	ML Laboratories	222½	- 7		58.2
1,124.10	Medeva	321	+ 11	1.9	..
124.00	Peptide Thera	345½	- 1	...	...
32.70	Proteus Intl	59½	- 10½	...	...
342.60	Scotia	445	- 160		...
133.90	Shire Pharms	219½	+ 1	..	..
297.40	SkyePharma	69½	+ 1½	...	
25,881.00	SmithKline	932½	+ ½	2.1	24.6
82.40	Therp Anti Inc	985	+ 2	...	...
166.80	Vanguard	672½	- 10	...	
82.10	Xenova	355	+ 1½		
17,391.70	Zeneca	1836½	- 47	2.4	25.7

PRINTING & PAPER

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
29.40	AG Holdings	140	- 1	5.4	11.6
211.30	API	752	+ 22	1.8	23.9
13.90	App Holo	52½	- 4		
1,805.80	Arjo Wiggins	195	...	4.9	16.2
30.40	Ascent Comms	196		4.0	15.4
42.30	Bath Press	19½	+ ½	2.9	10.7
190.60	Bemrose	449½	- 1	4.1	15.0
144.10	Bingden	199	- 5	1.5	16.9
943.20	Bowater Inc	2578½	+ 12½		
227.70	Bowmore Intl	318½	- 2	1.1	25.2
265.90	Br Polythene	858½	- 17½	3.5	.
2.98	Br Thornton	18½	+ 3	...	
169.50	Britton Grp	122	- 2	3.4	...
1,013.40	Bunzl	225½	+ 10	3.3	14.0
63.60	Capital Inds	187½	- 21	3.6	13.0
31.30	Cropper (James)	377½		1.4	19.8
1,311.70	De La Rue	584	- 31½	5.1	14.9
6.48	Delyn Group	74½		3.4	14.8
49.70	Dolphin Pack	212½	...	3.4	17.3
36.90	Fairway Group	87		7.8	14.9
90.30	Ferguson Intl	223		7.4	11.8
42.40	Filofax	140½	- 7	3.1	10.5
63.10	Inveresk	120	+ ½	6.2	44.8
110.20	Jarvis Porter	235	- 7½	3.7	13.9
442.90	Low & Bonar	448½	- 4	4.2	11.6
173.20	MY Holdings	128	+ ½	2.3	19.5
241.70	Macfarlane	191½	- 4	2.6	16.1
18.00	Nobo Gpt	101½	+ 4½	7.5	7.5
45.30	Photobition	431½	+ 4	2.0	22.8
84.90	Plysu	178½	- 1	5.2	17.3
30.80	Porter Chadburn	25½	- 5½	1.2	9.2
1,661.70	REXAM	329½	- 7	5.3	15.8
558.70	St Ives Gp	556½	+ 9	2.2	20.4
738.40	Sappi	468½	+ 1	4.2	..
2.04	Serif	2½	+ ¼		...
70.40	Sidlaw	102½		2.4	
805.50	Smith David	254½	- 1	3.8	8.5
1,770.70	Smurfit (Jeff)	168½	+ 6½	2.9	5.8
1.73	Sonic	86½		4.3	8.9
68.90	Wace	87	+ 1½	8.4	9.8
342.00	Waddington	326	+ ½	3.8	16.2
297.70	Watmough	434	+ 10	2.8	18.8
70.00	Wyndeham	200½	- 3	2.9	14.4

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
892.00	MFI	151	- 6	3.8	14.6
13,560.70	Marks Spencer	478½	- 12	3.1	18.9
264.90	Menzies (John)	470½	...	3.7	12.2
20.80	Merchant Retail	24½		...	28.5
247.40	Moss Bros	1397½	- 7½	1.7	28.5
2,266.40	Next	606	- 14½	2.7	25.0
7.72	Olives (G)	30½	- 1		
267.90	Ordiaste Intl	501	- 1½	3.1	15.4
16.30	Partridge Fine	79½	...	5.4	14.0
15.60	QS Hldgs	40	+ 2	4.9	
108.70	Rosebys	332½	+ 10	3.3	
1,236.90	Sears	81	- ½	6.1	66.0
94.50	Signet Group	32½			...
1,385.40	Smith WH	483	+ 21½	4.1	.
354.50	Sotheby	1045	+ 2½	2.4	
1,132.50	Storehouse	269	- 5½	3.5	17.9
70.20	Stylo	118	- 6	4.9	18.3
128.20	T & S Stores	178	+ 1½	5.1	11.4
833.90	Thorn	192½	+ 8½	8.6	14.9
97.10	Tie Rack	197	..	1.9	18.6
6.47	Upton & South	3½			35.9
3,708.20	Vendome	531½	+ 2	2.4	19.7
32.70	WEW Group	22½	- ½	..	
115.70	Wickes	153			
9.86	Wld of Leather	81½	- 6	2.6	...
104.20	Wyevale	260½	+ 7	2.9	19.1

SUPPORT SERVICES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,857.20	ADT	1337½	+ 12½		
416.00	AEA Tech	520	+ 10	1.8	24.0
178.30	Alpha Airpts	105	- 1	6.0	13.4
16.50	Alphameric	38½	- 1½		15.1
309.80	Atkins WS	336½	- 7	2.4	24.5
39.80	BNB Res	181½	- 2	4.7	9.8
121.00	BPP	450	+ 15	3.7	
44.20	BSM	158½	- 1	6.2	
588.40	BTG	672½	+ 42	0.7	
10.20	Brooks Service	79½	- 3	5.0	12.7
257.50	Business Post	488	- 2½	2.3	25.5
764.40	CMG	1192½	+ 22½	0.6	
318.30	CRT Gp	232	+ ½	2.2	29.2
19.70	Caird Gp	730	+ 52½	0.5	13.9
482.10	Capita Group	788	+ 79	0.9	...
3.09	Chemex	7½	+ ¼	2.5	18.5
1,204.70	Chubb Sec	427½	- 4	2.5	20.8
297.60	Corp Services	201½	+ 9½	3.1	
27.10	Coutts Cnsltg	55½	- 1½	5.3	
56.20	DCS Gp	292½	- 8	0.6	36.9
361.70	Davis Service	282½	+ 15½	5.0	13.5
239.80	Delphi	832½	+ 12½	0.9	
29.20	Dudley Jenkins	219½	- 10	2.2	20.5
12.80	EW Fact	70½	- 5	2.9	10.8
20.80	El Data Prct	79½	- 5	3.5	12.0
168.30	FI Group	580		1.0	45.3
2,292.20	Hays	551	+ 26½	1.9	22.8
177.00	Hogg Robinson	200½	- 6	5.7	9.2
279.60	JBA Hldgs	820	+ 35	0.6	49.0
142.10	Johnson Clean	286½		4.9	12.8
30.10	Kalamazoo	103½	- 6½	5.1	10.7
76.40	Kewill Sys	601½		1.8	18.4
10.10	Laser-Scan	31½	+ 2		
52.70	Lavendon	247½	- 2½	1.7	19.3
73.00	Leigh	110½	- 1	4.4	
652.90	Logica	1025	- 14	1.0	35.9
100.80	Lynx Hldgs	103	- 6	2.1	19.2
55.00	MDIS	52½	- 1½	2.9	
69.50	MMT Comp	584	+ 4	1.9	25.3
58.30	MR Group	95½	+ 5	4.7	16.9
81.30	Macro 4	412½		7.5	11.4
42.30	Manlomore Abbey	49½		1.5	...
195.30	Micro Focus	1285	+ 115		
89.70	Microgen	175½	+ 4	5.5	11.7
1,145.10	Misys	1330	+ 36½	1.1	28.1
123.30	MITIE Grt	190½	- 2	1.2	22.6
18.50	Nova Group	34		5.5	8.4
30.90	Orbis	43	+ 1	2.8	15.1
178.30	P & P	221	- 7½	2.1	17.0
340.90	Page (Michael)	549	- 2	2.1	17.2
236.50	Parity	556½	+ 51½	0.9	
24.10	Pegasus	377		2.0	25.3
15.40	Penna	140	- 5	1.8	...
102.90	Photo-Me	143½	- ½	4.4	17.9
11.50	Proudfoot	14½			3.6
27.10	RCO	253	+ 31½	7.9	28.5
39.20	RPS Group	306½	- 5½	2.4	..

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
6,648.30	Br Airways	663½	+ 2½	2.8	12.2
68.20	Central Tran R	8½	- ½		
22.70	Clarkson (H)	101½	- 2	4.0	3.1
64.80	Clydeport Ops	157	- 1½	3.6	11.4
329.80	Cowie	416	- 16½	3.8	12.6
39.70	Dart	245½	- 1	3.1	13.8
349.40	Eurotunnel Uts	76			
702.00	FirstBus	230	- 1	2.8	16.6
69.90	Fisher (James)	145		1.7	14.4
300.70	Forth Ports	658½	+ 4½	2.3	21.9
255.70	Go-Ahead	531½	+ 13	1.4	20.6
247.80	Goode Durrant	455½	+ 7	2.5	16.4
138.70	Irish Cont	550		1.0	
60.70	Jacobs ▼	91½		1.8	31.4
62.20	Lon O'Seas Frts	85	+ 4½	0.7	17.9
388.90	Mersey Docks	434	- 3½	3.7	18.7
1,161.30	NFC	166½		5.3	17.9
533.70	Natl Express	530	+ 10	2.5	14.3
792.40	Ocean Group	506	+ 20½	3.8	17.6
24.70	Ocean Wilson	87½		5.1	6.9
4,062.60	P & O Dfd	666	- 4	5.7	17.8
77.00	P & O 5½%	115½	- 7½	6.0	.
3,332.50	Railtrack (P/P)	466½	- 27½	3.9	14.7
11.70	Seacont	43	- 1	6.4	13.8
190.90	Servisair	475	+ 2½	1.2	40.2
1,754.30	Stagecoach	732½	- 22½	1.3	31.6
60.10	TLS	123½	+ 13	3.0	16.0
278.40	Tibbet & Britn	620	+ 30	3.3	23.5
272.70	TDG	199½	- ½	6.1	12.2
90.20	Ugland	69		8.6	7.7
29.60	Utd Carriers	88		4.5	

WATER

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,813.10	Anglian	672½	+ 17	5.8	8.1
1,190.70	Hyder	935	+ 2½	6.1	11.5
222.00	Hyder Cnv Prf	107½	+ ½	9.2	
97.50	Mid Kent Hldgs	570	+ 10	6.5	9.5
2,632.00	Severn Trent	752	+ 17½	5.6	8.3
171.10	South Staffs	2900		3.5	14.4
302.30	South West	700	+ 2½	5.8	7.8
2,506.20	Thames	686	- 3½	5.5	8.9
3,520.50	Utd Utilities	665½	- 4½	6.4	12.1
819.30	Wessex	380	+ 8½	5.2	7.5
1,404.60	Yorkshire	373	+ ½	5.3	10.0

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5.80	Acorn Recruit	105½		0.6	20.3
5.64	Cafe Inns	137½	+ 5	1.5	15.2
33.70	County Gdns	182½	+ 1	0.9	18.8
138.90	Dawson Hldgs	2487½	- 25	2.0	19.1
180.50	Freepages	47	- 1½		.
12.50	Megalomedia	90		.	50.5
28.20	Memory Corp	46½	- 3½	...	
40.00	Old English Pub	225½	+ 4	0.8	70.6
78.50	Prism Rail	360	- 15		
225.00	Ramco Eng	1097½	- 52½	0.1	
182.00	Southern News	755	+ 6	3.0	24.5
12.90	Southern Vectis	67½	...	3.5	14.5
51.00	Surrey Fr Inns	460	- 15	0.7	31.5
201.30	Trocadero	40½	+ 2	.	.

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension † Ex dividend ‡ Ex scrip ▲ Ex rights issue ▼ Ex all § Ex capital distribution * Figures or report awaited ◆ No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
[illegible]	Treas 7% 1997	100[illegible]		6.97	6.04
3,700	Exch 10½% 1997	100[illegible]		10.49	
5,553	Treas 8¾% 1997	101[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.65	6.07
330	Exch 15% 1997	105[illegible]	- [illegible]	14.25	6.12
3,550	Exch 9¾% 1998	102[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.48	6.22
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100[illegible]		7.18	6.29
[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	108[illegible]	- [illegible]	12.90	6.39
[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	113	- [illegible]	13.72	6.49
[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	108[illegible]	- [illegible]	11.06	6.54
[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	104[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.05	6.57
2,550	Exch 12¼% 1999	110[illegible]	[illegible]	11.08	6.65
[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	107[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.75	6.61
5,352	Treas 6% 1999	99[illegible]	- [illegible]	6.08	6.63
[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	108[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.45	6.75
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	105[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.51	6.87
5,360	Treas 8% 2000	103[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.72	6.97
[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	117[illegible]	- [illegible]	11.03	6.90
[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.07	6.97
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	100[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.00	6.99

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.72	7.11
3,500	Treas 8% 2003	104[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.66	7.11
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	114[illegible]	[illegible]	8.74	7.18
[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	115[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.96	6.99
547	Fund 3½% 1999-04	85[illegible]		4.10	6.00
[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	112[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.41	7.24
6,500	Treas 6¾% 2004	97[illegible]	- [illegible]	6.94	7.22
[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	107[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.90	7.31
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	112[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.21	7.31
[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.80	7.22
[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	101[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.42	7.34
3,000	Treas 7¾% 2006	102[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.56	7.37
2,050	Treas 9% 2002-06	102[illegible]		7.79	7.25
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121[illegible]	[illegible]	9.67	7.38
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	105[illegible]	[illegible]	7.87	7.37
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	112[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.03	7.43
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	104[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.68	7.47

LONGS (over 15 years)

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	89[illegible]	[illegible]	7.02	7.54
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	112[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.98	7.52
5,360	Treas 9% 2012	113[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.95	7.53
1,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	83[illegible]	- [illegible]	6.59	7.30
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	104[illegible]	[illegible]	7.68	7.54
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	101[illegible]	[illegible]	7.64	7.55
13,787	Treas 8% 2015	104[illegible]	[illegible]	7.64	7.57
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	112[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.80	7.57
11,500	Tr 8% 2021	105[illegible]	[illegible]	7.60	7.52

UNDATED

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
1,909	War Ln 3½%	45[illegible]	[illegible]	7.61	
475	Treas 2½%	32[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.64	
359	Consols 4%	50[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.85	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	10%	5%
800	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	114[illegible]	- [illegible]		1.95
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	185[illegible]	- [illegible]	2.77	3.29
2,300	Treas IL 2½% 2003	182[illegible]	- [illegible]	2.94	3.36
1,150	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	118[illegible]	[illegible]	3.00	3.37
2,350	Treas IL 2% 2006	192[illegible]	[illegible]	3.13	3.41
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2009	177[illegible]	- [illegible]	3.23	3.46
2,950	Treas IL 2½% 2011	179[illegible]	- [illegible]	3.29	3.49
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2013	147[illegible]	- [illegible]	3.34	3.52
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2016	157[illegible]	- [illegible]	3.38	3.54
3,350	Treas IL 2½% 2020	150[illegible]	[illegible]	3.44	3.58
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2024	125[illegible]	[illegible]	3.46	3.59
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	1[illegible]	[illegible]	3.46	3.59

Minimum wage no threat, says survey

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S businesses would be unaffected by a minimum wage set at even £4 an hour, according to a survey published today.

This is higher than the level likely to be recommended by a Labour government. Business leaders have maintained that a minimum wage would be damaging to business.

In the survey, commissioned by Reed Personnel, the recruitment specialist, and covering some 970 firms, 63 per cent of companies said they would be *unaffected by a minimum* wage of £4, with 35 per cent saying that they would be affected. The survey suggests that firms with below 100 and below 500 employees are actually more likely than larger companies to be unaffected by a £4 minimum.

Labour has said it has no *specific figure for the minimum* wage, but says instead that a Low Pay Commission, made up from employers and employees, would recommend a rate.

At a minimum of £3.75 an hour, 68 per cent of companies surveyed said they would not be affected. *At an hourly rate of* £3.50, 76 per cent said they will be unaffected, while at a £3.25 rate as many as 79 per cent of firms said a minimum wage would not damage their business.

Ian McCartney, Labour's Chief Employment Spokesman, said today that the survey rejects Conservative claims that a minimum wage would be bad for business: "By an overwhelming margin, companies of all sizes and *across all areas of the* economy have rejected the Tory scare campaign, and adopted Labour's measured approach of establishing a national minimum wage through a Low Pay Commission."

☐ The tax system needs a "radical overhaul", according to the Institute of Directors. It says share dividends should be non-taxable, and capital gains and inheritance tax should be abolished, with the aim of encouraging enterprise and creating wealth. It says the proposals would mean that "when a company made a profit, the Exchequer would only collect tax once".

Regulators face criticism in Commons report

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE regulation of energy companies is expected to face tough criticism tomorrow in an all-party Commons report that is likely to give the Labour Party fresh ammunition for its windfall tax on the utilities.

The Trade and Industry Select Committee inquiry into energy *regulation will say that* the companies made substantial profits immediately after privatisation. Labour is bound to seize on the independent research as it prepares plans for a windfall tax.

Weaknesses in the regulatory process, which determines the prices that can be charged by energy companies, will be *highlighted in the weighty report.* The committee, *under* Martin O'Neill, its Labour chairman, compiled the report after months of taking evidence.

The report is expected to favour the eventual replacement of the electricity watchdog and gas regulator with a single office covering both industries. But it is likely to emphasise the importance of *timing, especially as* both industries are currently preparing or implementing competition in the domestic market. Separate criticism could be levelled at Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, over progress towards competition in electricity amid persistant fears from many companies that the ambitious programme cannot be achieved by its April 1998 deadline.

Despite growing unease among some industry watchers about the effectiveness of the RPI-X formula of price *setting, the committee is unlikely to recommend a switch* from the method, which was devised by Professor Littlechild after the privatisation of BT. It is expected to rule out *other formulae,* such as those used in the US, of setting a rate of return and profit capping. RPI-X has been heavily criticised for encouraging short-termism. While rejecting such arguments, the committee is expected to praise a contribution from Ian Byatt, the water regulator, that companies should be encouraged to participate in a voluntary reallocation of profits.

Support for a boost to the budgets of the regulators is likely, with the committee concerned that the cash-rich companies can afford the best advice and research in their battles with their watchdogs, while the regulators' offices suffer tight finances and some defection of key staff attracted *by high salaries elsewhere.*

The report will be the most wide-ranging independent scrutiny so far of the regulatory process. With Labour likely to want a tougher regime should it win the election, the report is likely to form the foundation of an overhaul of utility control.

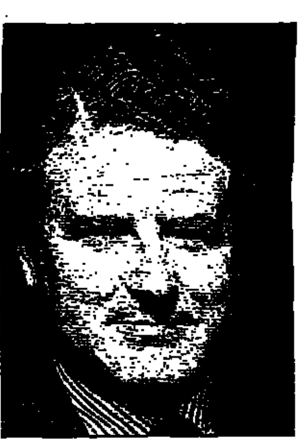
Small firms show fall in confidence

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

CONFIDENCE in the economy among Britain's small and medium-sized businesses has waned since the autumn, apparently because of the impact of sterling's strength on those dependent on exports, according to the latest 3i Enterprise Barometer.

The latest survey, the only one which measures confi*dence among venture capital*-backed businesses, shows that confidence has dropped back to August's level. There was a marked fall in the number of companies expecting to increase profits from more than 60 per cent in the last survey to just under 50 per cent today.

Ewen Macpherson, 3i's chief executive, said: "Compared with a year ago, the economic and business climate remains strongly positive. However, many small *and medium-sized companies* are exporters, or suppliers to exporters, and their less optimistic outlook may well reflect the impact of the appreciation of sterling on margins."



Macpherson: still positive

On a positive note, the proportion of companies expecting to increase investment during the first quarter of this year remained strong at the *highest level for nearly eight* years. Respondents to the survey also anticipated that 1997 would be a good year for employment with almost two thirds expecting to employ more people by the end of the year than at the end of 1996.

The survey showed a distinct fall in the proportion of firms who are positive about a European single currency compared with two years ago.

New era of growth forecast

By Janet Bush,
Economics Editor

BRITAIN'S relative decline over 20 years has been halted and its potential for economic growth is now greater than ever, according to a new report published today by the Social Market Foundation, an independent think-tank.

Nick Crafts, the author, *argues that improved indus*trial relations, higher productivity and better investment decisions have resulted from economic reforms. These have gone some way towards repairing the damage of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s when, he says, serious economic policy errors, such as misdirected *interventionism, were made.*

Professor Crafts takes issue with the new Labour view that low investment has been a primary cause of Britain's economic underperformance, citing instead weak productivity and a relatively weak capacity for innovation and for making effective use of technological change.

Littlewoods is believed to be looking for more than £500 million for its 135-store chain

Littlewoods stores sale to shake up retailers

By Sarah Cunningham

THE sale of Littlewoods' stores could radically alter the balance of power among Britain's clothing retailers, according to a new report.

The survey from Verdict, the retail consultancy, coincides with rumours that both Kingfisher, *the Woolworths* to Superdrug group, and Tesco, the supermarket chain, are believed to be considering bids for Littlewoods.

Verdict says that if Asda were to buy the 135-strong chain it would increase competition at the lower end of the market, which could hit both C&A and BhS. If Next were to buy the chain, the impact on Marks & Spencer would be significant.

Littlewoods, which is privately owned, said a fortnight ago *that it would consider offers for its 135 stores and it is* believed to be looking to raise over £500 million.

The report shows that Littlewoods' clothing market share has risen between 1994 and 1996 from per cent 1.6 to 1.9 per cent. Marks & Spencer's share has moved from 14.5 to 14.8 per cent and Burton's fashion multiples *(including Dorothy Perkins,* Burton Menswear, Top Shop, Top Man, Principles and Evans) from 4.8 to 4.9 per cent.

Next has leapt from 3.2 per cent to 4 per cent. Asda has cornered 1.6 per cent of the market (1.3 per cent) and Tesco 0.8 per cent (0.6 per cent). Among those to lose market share has been Etam *which has gone from 1.3 to 0.9* per cent. BhS, which has gone from 2.9 to 2.7 per cent and C&A, which has fallen from 4.2 to 4 per cent.

The report notes that customers are willing to pay premium prices for branded items and that "the tremendous concentration, particularly in the women's wear *mass market, means that* life will continue to be tough for the rest of the 1990s".

No CWS bank sale, Lanica told

By Fraser Nelson

THE Co-operative Bank has warned Andrew Regan, the 31-year-old entrepreneur understood to be preparing a bid for the bank, that any takeover approach would be doomed to failure.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), which wholly owns the bank, said it was aware of reports that Mr Regan has asked the Bank of England for permission to launch a bid, but said the bank, which has been under co-operative ownership for 127 years, was not for sale. A spokesman said: "Mr Regan would make *no headway at all in anything like this.* The CWS has made it quite clear that it has no plans to sell the bank. Mr Regan can talk to anyone he so wishes, but there is simply no opportunity here."

Mr Regan, who runs Lanica Trust, has already made a £500 million proposal to the CWS for a slice of its trading operations. The CWS said it was unable to confirm whether he was now bidding to dismantle the whole Co-operative movement. *Peter Rowbotham,* chairman of the Co-op's retail arm, said: "Mr *Regan's tactics have shown a lack of* understanding of the Co-operative movement's structure and politics. I know better than Mr Regan the views of our members, and they expect us to provide a service rather than help Mr Regan make a quick profit. As far as we're concerned, the matter is now closed and it's business as usual."

The Co-operative Bank manages assets of around £4 billion in two million accounts *and its insurance arm has an* income of £2 billion.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

More junior stocks qualify for tax breaks

TAX BREAKS offered by stocks in the Alternative Investment Market are drawing millions of pounds into the junior exchange as the end of the tax year approaches, according to traders.

More than 50 AIM companies now offer tax shelter on any profits made on the shares if it is reinvested. Traders at Winterflood Securities, a market maker in all AIM *stocks, say these stocks are* coming under demand from investors whose capital gains are approaching the *tax threshold.* Rutherford Asset Management and Cripps Harries Hall, the investment houses, claim to have designed a strategy to exploit the tax breaks offered by the market while avoiding the risks.

The two have designed the Rutherford Cripps Reinvestment Relief portfolios, which store money in the longer-established AIM companies which trade in more *reliable sectors. With a mini*mum investment threshold of £100,000, the trust is pitching itself at the super-rich: those who have just sold a business or have come into an inheritance.

The houses say that, with 266 companies, AIM has developed a core of reliable stocks that pay dividends, but do not rank with the speculative shares *that are expected to produce meteoric* growth. Its choices include Country Gardens, which runs 30 garden centres in England, Shepherd Neame, England's oldest brewing company, Zergo, the fast-growing computer systems supplier, and VDC. The portfolio is now running into its third series, which plans to attract up to £10 million. The *pioneering series, launched last March,* has grown its aggregate capital value by 16.7 per cent.

Under present rules, capital gains tax can be deferred, but not avoided. Gains made in qualifying stocks will not be taxed if invested elsewhere, but will be taxed if they are cashed in. While many fear that a change of government may mean that this benefit is ended, investors will be able to claim tax relief on any shares bought before any change is made.

The market has been steady for the past two months, with the AIM index hovering just below its high of 1,140.40. The index is been weighed down by the relatively sluggish performance from the market's largest stocks: Trocadero, Celtic and Ramco Energy.

Fraser Nelson

1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
150½	100½	11.20	AFA Systems	112½	+ 12	..	..
153½	109	21.60	AMCO Corp	151½	..	5.1	11.0
422½	67	69.00	AND Intl Pub	322½	+ 5		
107½	18	5.80	Abacus Recruit	105½	...	0.6	20.3
150½	99½	30.50	Access Plus	145½		4.2	..
161	59½	16.20	Active Imaging	88½	– 1	...	
210	123	29.50	A de Gruchy	200	.	3.9	15.0
20¼	7¼	10.60	African Gold	10¼	– ¼	..	21.7
117½	66	50.30	Artech	110½	– 2		
44½	13	16.10	Albemarle & Bd	42½	..	0.7	18.3
58	29½	7.35	Allzyme	42½	+ 5	.	..
24	0½	0.37	Alpha Omikron	0½	.		..
111½	103½	3.15	Anglo-Welsh	109½	.	2.9	
525	380	49.30	Ann St Brewery	515	– 5	4.7	11.6
1125	885	6.64	Ann St Cv Pf	1120		7.1	
121	48	63.10	Antonov	86½	+ 4		.
148½	121½	21.10	Aortech	122½	– 14		
100½	100	10.20	Archer Dedicated	100	..	1.0	55.6
9	7	1.78	Arion Props	7½	.		55.4
115	29½	51.90	Ashurst	60	– 5		.
275	68	33.80	Ask Central	210	+ 25	..	.
64½	55	1.16	Athelney Trust	64½	..		
149½	123	43.60	BATM Adv Comms	140½	– 2	..	
68	49½	9.65	Barbican Health	50	– ½	.	..
8	6½	11.50	Barradord	7½			
4¼	2¾	6.13	Beechcroft	3¼	..	.	9.0
4¼	2½	6.23	Beaufort	3¼			34.5
90½	40	6.01	Bilston Brisea	67½	– 2		16.8
165	140	1.11	Bowness Leis	162½		3.5	7.0
70	41	9.63	Brancote Hldgs	55½	– 1		
107	87	3.84	Br Bloodstock	91	+ 1	2.1	26.0
535	240	64.00	Brockbank	522½		1.8	16.9
167½	116	17.80	CA Coutts Hldgs	167½	.	0.6	22.5
180	138½	8.97	C & B Publishing	175		..	
110	109½	0.12	CCI Founder Shs	109½			
165½	116	1.32	CCI Hldgs	165	+ 12½	1.9	7.3
213	95	5.64	Cafe Inns	197½	+ 5	1.5	15.2
75	55	8.57	Caledonian Tst	70		.	13.7
3½	3	3.25	Calidora Group	3¼	+ ¼		
1½	0½	1.60	Calidora Grp Wts	1	...		
46½	27½	37.70	Card Clear	43½	+ 1½		
108	80½	8.16	Carisbrooke Ship	80½	..	5.4	7.6
72	48	3.11	Cassidy Bros	57	+ 2	6.6	14.7
57½	41	2.40	Cavendish W	55	..	3.4	26.3
21	16	5.66	Celebrated Group	17		2.0	15.0
£550	6550	101.50	Celtic	£350	–1500	...	
£450	6450		Celtic Pf Shs	£290	+1000		
124	96½	14.50	CI Comms(TV)	107½	– 1	3.3	12.7
9	5¾	8.00	Charterhouse	8	..	..	16.7
86	35½	4.07	Chartwell Intl	35½		..	
170	53	192.80	Chelsea Village	138½	– 5	...	
265	110	15.00	Chemical Design	230	.		36.7
202½	80	8.70	Circle Comms	80	– 5	..	6.1
110	110	0.99	Clan Homes	110	..	..	72.7
35	2½	1.05	ClubPartners	2½			
542½	485	12.70	Com de Plt Fin	527½	..	2.4	10.3
30	14	10.10	Concurrent Tech	21½	– 3	0.6	33.8
150	65	0.38	Conc Tech A Pf	150		.	
150	85	0.30	Conc Tech B Pf	150	..		
175	115	1.18	Conc Tech Rd Pf	175	..		..
275	215	0.21	Conc Tech Cv Pf	275	.		
44	36½	8.69	Conster Tst	39½		6.3	9.8
4¾	2	3.90	Corporate Exec	2½	+ ¼	...	12.6
185½	58	33.70	Country Gdns	182½	+ 1	0.9	18.8
140	88	5.13	Cntry Gdns Pf	140	+ 12½	4.7	..
109	22½	8.08	Creos Intl	22½		.	
345	190	4.08	Crown Eye	255		6.1	6.2
63	17	10.70	Crown Products	23	+ ½	...	
802½	162	63.90	DBS Management	795	+100	2.3	17.4
36	19½	0.94	Dalkeith Inns	19½	..	..	
90½	60½	4.90	David Glass	90½	..	6.9	10.4
140½	120½	4.90	Dawn Til Dusk	139½			10.8
2550	860	138.90	Dawson Hldgs	2487½	– 25	2.0	19.1
17	10½	6.68	Dean Corp	14½		1.7	12.8
174½	155½	10.80	Deep Sea Leisure	172½	.		23.1
5	2¼	3.55	Denimaster	2½	– ½		18.2
460	305	54.10	Dicom	425	– 10	0.2	19.1
111	78	15.10	Digital Anmtn	102½	+ 2		
87½	50½	12.30	Dmatek	65½			
270	240	12.20	Dobbies Garden	260		2.2	26.8
4½	2½	2.11	Drings of Bath	2¼	– ¼		13.4
137	38½	8.12	Easynet	56	– 1½		.
445	148	65.20	Elec Retail Sys	310	– 65		
200	33½	33.60	Electrophoretics	51	+ ½		
116	9½	2.80	Epic Multimedia	12	1½		
65	50	15.50	Epicore Netwks	60			
316	190	7.83	Eurasia Mining	210	– 5		
125	120	5.62	Euro Sales Fin	125			
220	118	16.90	Eve Group	172½		1.1	
475	325	8.39	[illegible]	330	– 10		22.0
77½	41	3.81	Fayrewood	72½		0.7	14.3
191½	102½	61.30	Fibernet	165	+ 20		
77½	52½	3.02	Fieldens	60½		3.1	8.0
265	75	5.54	First Pbls	235			6.9
183	8½	2.64	First Inter	14			
200	90½	52.40	Fitness First	190½	+ 23		74.7
255	188	5.38	Flomerics	210		1.5	
343	253	8.58	Floral St	285		0.7	
45	32½	6.53	FNR Hldgs	32½		.	
193	113½	13.70	Formscan	129½	– 18	3.2	12.9
110½	79½	9.70	Fountain Forest	110½	+ 1		17.0
51¼	14	180.50	Freepages	47	– 1¼		
173½	93	10.30	Furlong Homes	172½		2.4	
137½	122½	15.30	Future Intl Telep	137½	+ 7		.
296	165	14.40	GB Railways	165	– 10		
23	13	6.10	Gabriel Trust	17	.		59.9
63	52½	16.30	Gall Thomson Env	[illegible]			9.9
15¾	8¼	42.90	Gander Hldgs	14¼			
109½	77½	80.50	Gartland W&B	92½	1	0.4	8.4
113½	53½	93.50	Geo Int Media	[illegible]	[illegible]		
23½	12	23.00	Gold Mines Sard	17¼	1		
13½	7	4.82	Gold Mns Sard Wts	9	¼		
124½	114½	42.20	Goshawk Insce	121½			
22	6	2.99	Greenhills	9½			
15¾	13¼	1.72	Grosvenor Ltd	14¼			
150	145	32.70	Guiton	145		3.8	12.3
330	169	36.80	HIT Entertain	320	+ 35		
41	7	2.78	Hanson	7¼			
175	150	11.80	Hardy Undwtg	161	6		
72	53	3.18	Hat Pin	72		4.7	9.6
315	155	7.12	Heavitree	315	– 15	2.8	16.4
270	180	10.90	Heavitree A	270		3.2	14.0
140	48	4.44	Hercules Prop	13½			7.3
175	87½	12.80	Highams Sys	115	5		21.2
138	115	150.20	Hiscox	127		2.6	
80	65	1.16	Hurlingham	75			
119½	104½	7.23	Hydro-Dynamic	107½		1.4	
297	138	22.10	IES	145	1	1.4	45.0
96	65	19.00	Ind Bnl Health	74½		1.7	10.4
116	55½	8.60	Indpt Energy	65½			
134	105	25.80	Indpt Radio	[illegible]	– 3		
179	141½	33.70	Infobank Intl	175	– 1		
88	42½	10.20	Inner Workings	[illegible]			
88	63	16.80	Intelligent Env	[illegible]			54.1
75½	42½	19.70	Internet Tech	71	3		
177	97½	35.00	Interoute Tele	105			
285	167¾	33.30	Intl Greetings	265	10	2.6	14.9
179½	108	39.80	IOC Intl	[illegible]	5		
155½	122½	13.00	Jardinere Ins	147½			
103	62½	2.67	Jasmin	65½			10.8
345	280	25.30	Jennings Bros	343	2	2.6	23.5
4¼	3¾	5.88	J Lewis Htel	4¼			22.7
74¼	48½	9.30	Jordec	57½	.	...	
5½	2	6.15	Just Group	4	+ 1	.	...
3	1	0.19	Just Group Wts	1½	+ ½		
132½	82½	55.30	KS Biomedix	131½	+ 2	...	
52½	47½	5.46	Kern River	47½		..	..
160	92½	31.00	La Senza	92½	– 10	..	
180	130	25.50	Lancashire En	140	.	4.0	13.1
385	210	21.50	Lawrence	350	– 5	2.6	18.0
3750	2560	62.50	Lawrie Group	3350	.	2.6	10.2
358	255	58.60	Le Riches Strs	353½	– 1½	5.9	14.9
17	11	0.55	Life Numbers	11	.	.	.
9	2	0.10	Life Numbers Wts	3	..	..	
535	425	10.70	Loades	535	. .	0.2	50.7
106½	61½	23.50	Loftus Road	63½	– 1½	..	
16½	11¼	3.58	Lon & Edin Publ	11½	– ½	2.7	8.9
95	85	0.86	London Asia Pc	85	.	..	42.8
70	55	1.75	London Town	70	..		..
425	192½	70.10	Lonen Grp	410		1.1	...
4¼	2¼	4.33	Lotteryking	2½	....	.	32.1
1¾	0¾	0.13	Lotteryking Wts	0¾			
135	55	9.50	MMS Petroleum	78½	+ 2		.
315	147½	29.70	MTL Inst	163	– 7	3.8	10.3
160	17½	8.89	Magnum Power	19½	– ½	..	...
290½	187½	35.40	Majestic Wine	277½	+ 7	.	12.0
25	9½	9.27	Manx & O'seas	15½	.	2.6	29.6
125	105	2.40	Matrix Hlthcare	105	..	8.0	12.1
12¼	10½	3.87	Mears Group	10½	.	2.3	...
117	88½	52.50	Megalomedia	90	.		50.5
104	79	0.92	Megalomedia Wts	83½		.	...
113	62½	4.36	Meliek	62½		5.1	11.5
475	22½	28.20	Memory Corp	46½	– 3½		
55	8½	6.01	Meteor Tech	9	..	..	
43	9	0.17	Meteor Tech Wts	9	..	..	..
25	18	5.88	Metrodome	24		...	
93½	82½	4.97	Mondas	82½	– 1	...	.
350	156	26.60	Moorepay	350	.	2.1	.
200	67½	7.57	Mountcashel	100	+ 4	..	8.8
215	147½	41.10	Mulberry Group	207½		0.5	32.4
89	14½	4.18	MultiMedia	14½	– 3		29.8
21	17	1.40	NECA	19	– 2		
72½	54	2.03	NRP	70½	...	1.8	31.2
340	250	19.00	NWF Grp	250	– 5	5.3	12.9
210	175	14.10	Nash (Wm)	200		4.3	8.2
360	300	7.70	Neill Clerk	300		3.3	10.8
62½	45½	8.46	Netcall	60½	+ 1	.	...
242	118	73.20	Network Tech	227½	+ 13	0.2	32.4
80½	63	7.50	Nothomes	77½		.	48.9
76	30½	4.64	Nthn Petlm	40½	.	.	..
8	7½	0.12	Nthn Petlm Wts	7½			
119½	110½	45.40	Nursing Home	114½	+ 1	4.0	26.1
239¾	85¾	40.00	Old English Pub	225½	+ 4	0.8	70.8
136	84	15.90	Ommicare	134½	+ 3	1.0	20.3
75	6½	2.22	Ommimedia	9	+ ½	.	.
107½	62½	2.58	On Line	64½	– 1	.	
72½	42½	33.40	Oxford Biomedica	52½	– 3	.	.
123	66	19.10	Loox	82½	..		..
3½	1	39.30	Pacific Media	3	+ ¼	.	
140½	17¼	25.40	Pan Andean Res	57½	– 2	.	
220	180	5.36	Park Edn(Lv)	220	.	4.5	16.0
26½	8½	6.92	Pembertons	25		..	...
106	45	6.98	Personal No Co	45	– ½		
337½	100	48.10	Philippine Gd	127½	.		...
70½	52½	12.40	Pilat Tech	55½	– 2		15.5
184	107	24.70	Polymasc Pharms	123½	+ 1	.	
4	2¼	5.46	Pordum Foods	2½	.	.	.
2	1	0.27	Pordum Fds Wts	1¼		..	.
600	400	10.90	Preston Nth E	550		...	.
105	100½	16.60	Primary Hlth Pr	103½	+ ¾	1.4	..
590	151	78.50	Prism Rail	360	– 15	..	.
1265	379	225.00	Ramco Egy	1097½	– 52½	0.1	
109½	32	11.70	Raphael Zorn	109½	+ 22	2.3	12.4
122½	94½	19.90	Recycling Servs	122½	...	3.3	.
140	43	9.00	Reflec	118½	– 10	.	
6	4¼	3.16	Revelation Prc	5	+ ½		4.8
27	15	17.10	Riceman Insco	26	...		
99½	63	4.03	Romtec	77½	.	3.0	18.2
4½	2	2.18	Rushmere Wyme	2	.	..	
1¼	0¾	0.07	Rush Wyn Wts	0¾	..	..	..
165	151	17.90	SCI Ent	153½		...	..
126	31	3.19	SCS Satellite	31	..		
75	27½	6.21	SEA Multimedia	27½	.	...	..
72½	62½	6.96	Sanctuary Musc	72½	...		.
31	5½	0.56	Scotswood Inds	8	.	7.8	..
57½	23	7.26	Scott Pickford	57½	.	2.0	20.7
68	28	13.40	Scott Pride	42½		.	..
6	3¾	10.60	Screen	5½	– ½		22.7
350	270	16.80	Scrutons	350	..	4.6	15.9
76	64	14.10	Selector	72	...		..
60	22½	1.43	Self Sealing	24½	.	..	
162½	132½	7.81	Shalibane	162½	+ 5	3.1	13.3
118	69½	5.49	Shelton (M)	103½	+ 11	5.1	12.5
233½	164	27.20	Sinclair Montrs	223½	...	.	
5	2¾	7.73	Sira Bus Serv	3¾	+ ¼	1.6	36.5
1½	1	0.29	Sira Bus Wts	1½	+ ¼	.	.
3¾	1¾	13.70	Snakeboard	2		..	..
91	82½	5.16	Solid State Sp	82½		4.2	13.7
43	27	3.38	Soundtracs	33½	..	3.1	19.3
755	520	182.00	Southern News	755	+ 6	3.0	24.5
79½	50	12.90	Southern Vectis	67½		3.5	14.5
297½	173½	26.80	Staffware	231½	..	..	67.6
635	255	110.00	Stanford Rook	570	– 20	...	..
201	75	12.20	Stentor	172½	+ 17½		
496	122	51.00	Surrey Fr Inns	460	– 15	0.7	31.8
150	125	14.50	Sutton Harbour	145	...	1.0	20.7
136	15½	2.08	Syst Integ Rsch	15½	– 1	.	..
34½	6	4.75	TDS Circuits	22½	+ 3½	..	27.8
138	67½	11.20	Theo Fennell	69½	+ 2		17.9
15	7¼	21.60	Thomas Potts	12	.	0.6	..
56	25½	2.02	Tom Hoskins	26½	...	...	...
915	375	24.10	TRACKER Netwk	455	– 30		
165	85	20.40	Tradepoint Fcl	95		..	...
180	160	5.10	Trinity Care	167	.	3.7	12.0
170	165		Trinity Care Pf	170	..		
79½	33½	201.30	Trocadero	40½	+ 2	..	..
298	143	39.00	UNO	278½	– 3½	1.9	33.1
42	40	3.65	Univent	40		..	18.4
458	357½	6.90	Utd Auctions	387½	...	2.6	
280	147¼	16.50	VDC	160	– 10	4.1	12.6
24¼	13½	60.80	Versailles Grp	24¼	+ 2	1.0	22.4
62	49	93.80	Victory Corp	49½	..	.	
650	97½	3.38	Viewinn	112½	+ 5		..
428	232	6.44	Voss Net	240		.	
88	46	20.30	Waterfall	78½	– 7½		20.7
28	13	5.28	Watermark	28	+ 1	.	8.2
27½	7	6.77	Wedderburn Secs	24½	.		
11	1¼	0.38	Wedd Secs Wts	11	...	..	..
8¼	5¼	7.57	Weeks Group	5¾	+ ¼	2.8	9.6
130	90	3.86	West 175 Enter	100	.	..	
£280	£180	14.60	West Bromwich	£200	..	.	...
19	12	6.56	Western Selectn	12½	...	..	13.5
6	3½	0.28	Western Sel Wts	4½	..	.	...
84½	26	8.42	Westmount Engy	77½	+ 2		...
95	84½	3.49	Whitecross	84½			
245	135½	37.40	Whittard Chelsea	235½	– 2	1.3	28.0
75	45½	7.85	W'chester M Md	67½	.		..
145	100	4.10	Wynnstay Props	130	.	4.5	18.6
13½	9	5.36	Xavier Comp	10¼	– ½		.
179½	132½	6.83	Yeoman	135½	.	..	
340	170	26.70	Zergo	290	..	.	72.8
29½	20½	5.18	Zicor Mining	22½	– 3	..	...

Jon Ashworth on the restoration of Sadler's Wells to financial health

All-dancing yet unsung heroes

Staging a comeback: Sadler's Wells, which recently presented an all-male production of *Swan Lake*, received vital yet free help from its advisers to secure National Lottery funds

Professional advisers are enjoying rich pickings from the National Lottery — but not, it seems, in the case of Sadler's Wells. London's second oldest theatre is set to reopen late next year, thanks, in no small part, to the efforts of Andersen Consulting, which has guided the project from the start.

Sadler's Wells was at the head of the queue for Arts Council lottery funding and was rewarded with a grant for up to £30 million in funds. Construction and design account for most of the costs.

Little would have been achieved without Andersen, which had donated about £400,000 in professional time by January 1995 when the lottery application was submitted. There was similar largesse from Berwin Leighton, the law firm, which worked on planning applications free of charge. Clifford Chance has also done its bit.

Such generosity is not evident elsewhere, where projects such as the Royal Opera House, the Lowry Centre, and the South Bank, are generating millions of pounds in fees.

Architects, engineers and surveyors have been stung by suggestions that they are cashing in. Advisers' fees on lottery construction projects tend to average 17 per cent. Based on a range of 13 to 20 per cent, fees associated with lottery projects could easily top £800 million.

All of which makes Sadler's Wells, which recently staged an all-male production of *Swan Lake*, all the more unusual. Ian Albery, the chief executive, says Andersen Consulting and Berwin Leighton have played a vital role. He adds: "Without these two firms, we would never have got near to winning a major lottery award. This was the first big piece of funding coming out of the lottery." National Lottery grants have sparked a construction boom across Britain — about 300 people are working on site at Sadler's Wells alone — but much of the physical evidence will not appear until 1998 and 1999.

Sadler's Wells is currently a huge hole. Only part of the old auditorium remains — a home for the "ghosts" dating to 1683, when the first of five theatres to be built on the site was opened by Dick Sadler. Andersen became involved in mid-1994, long before "lottery grant" entered the lexicon. The first lottery tickets did not go on sale until November 1994. Then, Sadler's Wells was on the edge of insolvency, about £500,000 in debt, and lacking the generous grants awarded to more mainstream entities.

Hugh Morris, the Andersen partner concerned, swiftly took charge. Andersen staff were soon working with the Sadler's Wells project team on drafting a lottery application. Mr Albery says: "It was an enormous morale booster to have someone from outside become part of the family. Many companies would not want to be associated with something that was so close to the edge."

Mr Morris says: "He [Albery] called me over and shared his dream about what could happen. It felt like something that was worthwhile doing — exciting and innovative." Andersen personnel, he said, gained a lot from the experience. He adds: "We tend to work for very large organisations. Here, we have a whole business in microcosm. They have come out with a broadened business perspective."

Sadler's Wells made 62 of its 85 employees redundant, but a few have been re-employed at the Peacock Theatre in Kingsway — the company's temporary home until the new theatre opens. The new building will provide about 90 jobs, and it is hoped that ushers and other part-timers will be taken back on.

The new auditorium will seat 950 or 1600 people (depending on the layout), with more for promenade performances. There will be dressing rooms for 100 artists and an orchestra pit big enough for 90 musicians. The Lilian Baylis studio theatre will seat up to 200, and enjoy greatly improved facilities. All being well, the new Sadler's Wells will open in October 1998 — the first of the big lottery projects to reach fruition.

Andersen Consulting will get some sort of recognition — a plaque, perhaps — but expects nothing. As Mr Albery says: "A lot of consultants are making money out of the National Lottery, but there are a lot of unsung heroes. Andersen enabled this project to start and live."

Test case to look at employment rights

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

A TEST case that opens today in the Court of Appeal is the first to examine the rights of employees since a landmark judgment in the European Court of Justice last week.

The case, Betts v Brintel Helicopters, involves 66 staff who worked for a contractor providing helicopter services to oil rigs operated by Shell in the North Sea. Brintel lost one of its contracts, but the new contractor did not recruit the 66 employees involved.

The case is comparable with the appeal by a German cleaning worker that was decided in the European Court last week.

The Luxembourg court ruled that when a company wins a contract it does not have to employ the staff who previously did the work, provided no assets are transferred to the contractor. Until the ruling, companies that took over a contract also took over responsibility for the employment rights of the workers who were carrying out the work.

The ruling threatens the rights of all workers employed by businesses that tender for work such as hospital services, local authorities and school services. But unions have argued that each transfer must be considered on its merits. Employers are also anxious for fresh clarification of the law because the ruling means that when an employer loses a contract it will become liable for the redundancy costs of the workers that it employed.

Consideration of the case is expected to be protracted as the judges grapple with the implications of the European decision, aware that their ruling will be an important comment on the European decision.

Sema loses £45m deal with E&Y

By Fraser Nelson

SEMA, the Anglo-French computer services group, has lost its £45 million outsourcing deal with Ernst & Young after the accounting firm scrapped plans to hand over its IT department at the eleventh hour.

The two companies have agreed that the contract, described as "model" by Ernst & Young only last year, would have been flawed by a clash of corporate cultures.

Clive Williams, the Ernst & Young managing partner in charge of the handover, admitted that the company had not handled the switch as well as it could have, and conceded that this had led to the departure of key computer operators.

Three weeks ago, Lloyds TSB abandoned its £50 million outsourcing contract with Sema three years early.

Abbey 'will not target Friends'

By Anne Ashworth

ABBEY NATIONAL yesterday denied that it would pounce on Friends Provident if its bid for Scottish Amicable is rejected. A spokeswoman said that Abbey was concentrating on its offer for Scottish Amicable and had "no other named targets in mind".

Abbey is competing with the Prudential and AMP of Australia for control of Scottish Amicable, which became a bid target after the announcement of controversial demutualisation proposals. The interested parties submitted their final offers on Friday. These put a price tag of around £1.9 billion on Scottish Amicable but no exact figures are available as secrecy covers the negotiations.

The Scottish Amicable board is expected to announce its preferred bidder by the end of this month.

B&B rewards loyalty

By Marianne Curphey

BRADFORD & BINGLEY will unveil details of a new loyalty and reward scheme for members tomorrow as it publishes its full-year results.

The building society has been a strong advocate of mutuality and said last year it was giving back £1 million a week to its two million saving and borrowing members. This means profits are likely to be down 40 per cent, as are those of the Yorkshire Building Society which publishes its results today.

Other mutual societies, including the Britannia, have introduced their own loyalty schemes based on points earned.

A spokesman for Bradford & Bingley said: "We are going to hand back a lot more money to both savers and borrowers."

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THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Carlton goes to Hollywood?

CARLTON Communications could soon be owner of the Hollywood studio that made *The Mask*. Word has it that the media group is involved in a consortium with Havas, the French company, to buy New Line Cinema. Owned by Ted Turner, the studio, which was itself taken over by Time Warner, is being sold in the wake of the merger. The previous frontline bidder was thought to be Chris-Craft Industries, the US broadcaster.

Gregory's goal

AFTER three years at Prolific, Tim Gregory has quit to join Gartmore. The director and top-rated head of income funds left last Monday, forcing Prolific to delay the launch of an offshore UK emerging companies fund due for March 21. Gregory is expected to join Gartmore in mid-April as a senior fund manager within the income team. Meanwhile, he and his wife are soaking up the sun in Australia.

Brokers' notes

A GROWING band of City whiz-kids is heading to Saint-Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe for an hour's piano tuition at lunchtimes. Lucinda Mackworth-Young, a concert pianist and psychologist, has set up base in the Blackfriars church as a refuge for stressed-out City types. The daughter of Bill Mackworth-Young, a former Morgan Grenfell chairman, teaches anything from The Beatles to Rachmaninov.

Star pupil Mark Roberts, a jazz junkie and director at SBC Warburg, has so far mastered *Georgia On My Mind*. His colleague Audrey Wiggin has dragooned her boss Geoffrey King, director of equities at Warburgs, and her brother Tom, head of convertible bonds at Flemings, into joining.

Mackworth-Young: on song for City executives

Hair today . . .

NEWS that Varga Studio, one of Central Europe's leading animation studios, is to join forces with TV Cartoons, the UK's oldest animation house, makes Peter Rona a happy man. After 20 years at Schroders, latterly as head of the New York office, Rona launched the First Hungary Fund, which owns Varga, in 1989. After studying law at Oxford, he became personal assistant to Gordon Richardson, then chairman of Schroders and later Governor of the Bank of England. Rona incurred his wrath on ploughing $75,000 of Schroders money into *Hair*, the musical. "I liked the music, and it was a successful investment," Rona says, adding that it was sold soon after.

SO, Bristol & West has sent out 580 tonnes or 7,407,000 metres of paper when laid side by side — enough to stretch more than once around the world, or the equivalent of 98 trips from Bristol to Bank of Ireland's head office in Dublin. But what to do with the transfer document once you've learnt it by heart? For each document recycled at one of its branches, B&W will make a 5p donation to "Community Forests".

MORAG PRESTON

Sorrell set for free shares

Martin Sorrell, WPP chief executive, will pick up free shares worth £4.67 million if the advertising group's shares stay above 230p by the end of trading today.

Mr Sorrell, who has already collected shares worth the same amount through the first tranche of his four-part incentive scheme, stands to gain a further £10.5 million if the shares continue to rise.

Under the terms of the scheme, which is potentially worth £28 million over five years, Mr Sorrell will not be able to cash in his fortune until September 1999. WPP's shares closed at 272½p last Friday.

Loan book development

More developments are expected this week in the bidding for the £1.6 billion Mortgage Express loan book, put up for sale earlier this year by Lloyds TSB. Interested parties are said to include a consortium made up of UBS Home Loans and the Britannia Building Society.

Mortgage Express, established 11 years ago, is a centralised lender selling loans through intermediaries. There have been attempts to turn round the business, making it a niche market player, dealing with the self employed and contract workers. But it does not fit within the Lloyds TSB mortgage arm, now brought together under the C&G name. A spokeswoman for C&G declined to comment.

Cash injection from syringes

PROTOTYPE syringes that protect nurses from accidentally infecting themselves after giving injections are coming to the Alternative Investment Market, via the flotation of New Medical Technology. The company hopes to raise up to £15 million.

The syringes, named Zero-Stick, carry a needle which retracts as soon as an injection is delivered, making accidental infection impossible. They are due to go on sale in the second half of next year.

The company forecasts that safety syringes will account for half of the £1.12 billion market in four years' time.

Prestbury aim

Prestbury Leisure, a Manchester company that designs and sells sportwear and leather jackets, plans to join the Alternative Investment Market next week valued at £2.52 million. John Edelson and Jonathan Lyons, its founders, will share a stake worth £1.42 million after the flotation. The company is raising £770,000 to fund expansion.

Beleaguered Shell takes stand on human rights

By Carl Mortished

SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, is expected to announce today a big change to its business principles, incorporating for the first time a statement of support for fundamental human rights.

The multinational company, which came under attack last year over the disposal of the Brent Spar and its activities in Nigeria, has rewritten its statement of general business principles.

The new version is expected to state that the oil company has a duty to support human rights, has proper regard for the environment and a commitment to sustainable development.

Shell was taken by surprise over the scale of the opposition to its plans to dump the Brent Spar. The company believes that its role in Nigeria, where it was accused of environmental damage, has been misrepresented and misunderstood.

Concern about Shell's activities has prompted several church-based pension funds to table a resolution to the annual meeting of Shell Transport & Trading, demanding more disclosure about Shell's impact on the environment.

The Shell business principles are designed mainly for internal use; the original document deals extensively with business ethics and prohibits the taking or giving of bribes.

However, the decision to adopt highly emotive concepts, such as human rights, into a code of conduct for its staff is likely to arouse controversy, both inside and outside the organisation.

The company was heavily criticised by human rights activists for not taking a stand in Nigeria against the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Ogoni leader. Shell claims that it voiced its opposition privately and that its business principles prohibit Shell companies from interfering in politics. However, the new document is expected to exclude that prohibition and to recognise a responsibility to express support for human rights.

Shell has been in talks with Pirc, other shareholder lobby groups and various non-governmental organisations since May last year over the new principles but they are likely to fall short of demands from Shell's critics; the document will give as much weight to Shell's responsibility to its shareholders.

Shell's initiative will be closely watched by other multinationals, including British Petroleum, which is coming under fire from environmentalists for its activities in the new oil provinces west of the Shetlands. It has also been accused of links with the military in Colombia, allegations denied by BP.

Ken Wiwa, son of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer and Ogoni leader who was executed

Japanese join the jam in direct motor cover

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

CUT-THROAT competition, an overcrowded market and falling premiums have done nothing to deter a Japanese company from launching into UK direct motor insurance this week.

The new insurer, Hastings Direct, backed by Chiyoda of Tokyo, will join more than 50 other direct insurers battling for market share in an industry plagued by falling premium rates and rising claims.

But analysts have questioned whether there is room for another telephone insurer in a saturated market. AA Insurance Services has already predicted that smaller direct insurers will merge or be taken over this year because many of them are having to write business at a loss to attract new customers.

Chiyoda, Japan's fourth largest motor insurer, has set up a UK headquarters in Bexhill, East Sussex, and will officially begin trading on Wednesday. The project has the blessing of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Hiroaki Fujii, the Japanese Ambassador, who will be attending an opening ceremony.

Their support is a measure of the importance of the new company in an area struggling with rising unemployment. Hastings Direct already employs more than 100 staff and plans to increase that to 300 over the next three years, which would make it the largest private sector company in the local area.

After a pilot scheme in January, its managing director, Jerry Kendall, 42, a former Lloyds syndicate underwriter, aims to spread the start-up costs, which are less than £10 million, over the next three years. He aims to attract 65,000 policyholders this year and to have written more than £75 million of business and have 250,000 policyholders by the end of the decade.

He said: "We will be cost effective and aim to post a small profit this year."

The announcement comes only days after the UK's composite insurers gave warning that the motor insurance market was still fiercely competitive. Independent Insurance said it saw no sign of an upturn in premium rates paid by motorists, while the composite insurers said they would try to impose rate rises but could not be sure whether they would stick.

Mr Kendall said: "We believe the motor market will grow from 16 million to 20 million by 2000 and that the proportion of people buying direct insurance will shift from 30 per cent to 50 per cent of the total market.

Forsyth awaits court ruling

By Jon Ashworth

THE latest chapter in the Polly Peck International saga is expected to draw to a close today. Elizabeth Forsyth, freed on bail in January after serving ten months of a five-year prison sentence, returns to the Court of Appeal to hear a panel of judges deliver their ruling.

Mrs Forsyth, 60, was convicted a year ago of handling £400,000 in funds purportedly stolen from PPI by Asil Nadir, fugitive founder of the fruits-to-electronics group. She was released six weeks ago, after the judges hearing her appeal ruled that the five-year sentence was excessively harsh.

Lord Justice Beldam, sitting with Mrs Justice Bracewell and Mr Justice Mance, made clear at the opening of the appeal that Mrs Forsyth would not be returning to prison. The former banker and one-time aide to Mr Nadir is appealing against conviction and sentence. Developments will be watched closely by Mr Nadir, who is in self-imposed exile in northern Cyprus. He fled Britain in May 1993 while awaiting trial on fraud and theft charges. Any quashing of Mrs Forsyth's conviction could imply that he did not steal £400,000 from PPI — as set out in the charge — and allow him to mount a fresh legal challenge. The Serious Fraud Office has said it will press on with the case against him.

☐ The Old Bailey jury in the trial of Abbas Gokal, the former head of the Gulf Group, is expected to retire on Wednesday. Mr Gokal denies one count of false accounting and a second count of conspiracy to defraud. He is accused of conspiring with Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) officials to siphon off more than $1.2 billion in loans.

GILT-EDGED

Expect spreads to narrow in any event

Does gilts' out-performance of European markets in recent weeks set the stage for a prolonged new trend, or is this no more than a minor hiccup in a period of underperformance? It will not be just a temporary feature, despite the volatility that will be introduced by the general election and by a different rate cycle from Europe.

Apart from the mixed domestic factors, the key influence on gilts and international investment behaviour will be discussions on EMU. As the start date for the euro approaches and sentiment becomes ever more uncertain, sterling assets will receive greater attention from the Far East and the US. Gilts will provide an alternative in international portfolios against EMU bloc currencies, which are likely to face an uncertain period. This will apply whether monetary union occurs on time or is delayed.

The ten-year gilt spread against bunds, which has gyrated in a range of 1-2 per cent since early 1996, is likely to move towards the lower end of this range by the end of the year once interest rate rises have been absorbed. The top end of this range should be sufficient to price in any political risk and any rate rises during 1997. Beside spread narrowing, sterling will also appreciate, despite the fall in recent days because of favourable inflation comments and the shift in rate expectations.

Any concerns that the election and the likelihood of a change in Government will increase the risk premium for gilts will be no more than temporary. Any prolonged risk premium increase due to a Labour Government has to be judged on two particular issues. First, will it lead to a notable shift in both the implementation and substance of fiscal and monetary policy? On monetary policy, interest rates will increase in any case. A Labour Chancellor will be even more keen to prove credibility in the event of the May *Inflation Report* reverting to a more hawkish stance on price developments in the medium term. On fiscal policy, a mini-Budget will not significantly change the borrowing requirement for the next few years.

Second, will a new Government quickly change policy on EMU? Labour is committed to a referendum and although it is unlikely that there will be any wish to be part of a single currency in the first wave in 1999, comments from leading Labour officials will be more pro-European and will be viewed positively by international investors. A more important influence will be the growth-inflation outlook. The economy is clearly continuing to grow at a relatively fast pace, with consumers still to benefit from tax changes in April.

There is little reason for an aggressive tightening as the price transmission mechanism is different in this cycle from previous economic cycles. The experience of the US should highlight the fallacy of those arguing that inflation must inevitably rise, leading to sharply higher interest rates.

Clearly, UK rates will rise to slow the economy to ensure inflation remains close to the target in 1998. But, whereas the market is discounting an increase of 1-1¼ per cent over the next year, we expect rates to peak just ½ per cent above current levels. Apart from these domestic factors, the single most important issue for international investors will be the probable restructuring of portfolios to take account of a single currency.

The gilt market, with its liquidity and structure in addition to spread and currency arguments, will be ranked towards the top of any European portfolio. This will apply particularly to the Japanese and Far Eastern investor base. To some extent, £11 billion of eurosterling issuance so far this year has attempted to tap into this demand.

Clearly, neither the EU economic background nor the internal political pressures, particularly in Germany, will be conducive to positive comments emerging either before the June Amsterdam summit, or in the run-up to the decision on participants in early 1998. Those who argue that the whole process will be delayed are missing the point. The discussion in Germany is not about a wholesale delay, but a single currency based on the core bloc in 1999. Gilts' attractiveness as an alternative to other European governments in global portfolios can only gain on either EMU occurring on the basis of a core bloc or on the basis of an enlarged bloc.

The conclusion has to be that international investors will look past short-term volatility and focus instead on longer-term arguments of greater monetary credibility, fiscal considerations and better inflation performance. Spread narrowing to 1¼ per cent above bunds by year-end will be possible.

Sanjay Joshi
Daiwa Europe

EU to issue further works councils directive

Padraig Flynn is expected to announce the plans in May

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

BRUSSELS is to bring forward new proposals requiring companies in every European member state, including the UK, to establish works councils for consulting with their employees. Even those with as few as 50 employees could be affected.

The move, likely to be announced in May by Padraig Flynn, the EU's Social Affairs Commissioner, is expected to infuriate Conservatives, especially Eurosceptics, and business leaders who argue that works councils damage the flexibility of companies.

The Commission is expected to introduce the proposal under the EU social chapter. Britain's social chapter opt-out, negotiated by the Prime Minister at Maastricht, would prevent its being applied to the UK, but its provisions would apply if a new Labour government abandons the opt-out and signs up to the social chapter, as it is committed to do.

Large, multinational companies based in Britain are already having to comply with an EU directive requiring them to establish European-style works consultative councils if they have the specified number of employees in two or more EU member states. The Brussels move appears to have been spurred by the decision by Renault, the carmaker, to close its plant in Vilvoorde, in northern Brussels, with the likely loss of 3,100 jobs.

Commission officials said it had been taken without consulting the company's workforce, as required by EU law. The Commission is expected to propose that all companies above a specified size should establish information and consultation arrangements. While the draft directive is not expected to specify that these are European-style works councils, the expectation in Brussels is that works councils will be adopted and introduced. The Commission is under pressure from the European Parliament and elsewhere to set it at 50 employees.

Payment of Dividend

The 43rd Annual General Meeting of our shareholders passed the resolution to pay a dividend for the fiscal year 1995/96 of DM 8.00 per share of DM 50.00 par value.

Payment will be effected against presentation of coupon No. 9.

Payment on DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates will be effected at the rate of DM 1.60 against presentation of coupon No. 36.

Both payments are subject to deduction of 26.875 % of German Withholding Tax (including solidarity surtax). United Kingdom Income Tax will be deducted at the rate of 5 % unless claims are accompanied by an affidavit. German Withholding Tax exceeding 15 % is recoverable by United Kingdom residents. The Company's United Kingdom Paying Agents will, upon request, provide the appropriate form for such recovery.

Paying Agents in the United Kingdom are: SBC Warburg, N.M. Rothschild & Sons.

The net amount of dividend in respect of the DM 50.00 shares is payable at the rate of exchange on the day of presentation.

Claims concerning DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates should be lodged at National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR, on special forms obtainable from that Office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in Space No. 36 provided on the back of the certificate. All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificates for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The net payment in respect of DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates will be made in sterling at the rate of exchange on or shortly after the due date.

Duisburg, March 1997 Board of Management

THYSSEN

THYSSEN AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Ford

Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 9 January, 1997 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 17 March, 1997.

Gross Distribution per unit 1.92500 Cents
Less 15% USA Withholding Tax 0.28875 Cents
1.63625 Cents
Converted at $1.625 £0.01006923

Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITARY; National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on special forms obtainable from that office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 17 March, 1997

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

NEXAL

(c) Characterised by the imposition of servitude as a penalty on a defaulting debtor. Roman law, from the Latin *nexus* or *nexum*, a bond or obligation. "It is probable that in early times plebeian law recognised no debt except that created by the nexal contract."

PIASSABA

(a) A stout woody fibre obtained from the leaf-stalks of two Brazilian palm-trees, *Attalea funifera* and *Leopoldinia Piassaba*, and imported for the manufacture of coarse brooms, brushes, etc. 1858: "That fibre, resembling whalebone, called in commerce Piassaba fibre, Monkey Grass or Para Grass."

NIMMING

(b) Taking bribes, or consuming. From the common Teutonic verb *nim* to take. "Those Nimming Neds and Crook-finger'd Jacks of the typographical Tribe."

PALKEE

(a) A palankeen, or covered litter or conveyance, usually for one person, *used in India and other Eastern countries, consisting of* a large box with wooden shutters like Venetian blinds, carried by four or six (rarely two) men by means of poles projecting before and behind. From the Portuguese and East Indian vernacular. "The greater nobility are carried in a palkee, which looks very like a hammock fastened to a crooked pole."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Rxc1! and if 2 Qxc1 Qxg2 is mate while 2 Rxc1 Nf3+ wins the white queen.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.09	1.93
Austria Sch	20.05	18.55
Belgium Fr	58.84	54.54
Canada $	2.279	2.119
Cyprus Cyp£ .	*0.842*	*0.787*
Denmark Kr ...	10.91	10.11
Finland Mkk ...	8.67	8.02
France Fr	9.54	8.89
Germany Dm .	2.88	2.65
Greece Dr	*444*	*418*
Hong Kong $	12.97	11.97
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Israel Shk	5.66	5.01
Italy Lira	2826	2651
Japan Yen	210.90	194.90
Malta	0.652	0.597
Netherlds Gld	3.198	2.968
New Zealand $	2.42	2.20
Norway Kr	11.44	10.64
Portugal Esc ..	283.00	264.50
S Africa Rd	7.62	6.82
Spain Pta	241.00	224.00
Sweden Kr	12.87	12.07
Switzerland Fr	2.45	2.27
Turkey Lira	210500	*198500*
USA $	1.690	1.560

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6012 (-0.0040)
German mark
2.7212 (-0.0378)
Exchange index
97.2 (-0.9)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2930.2 (+9.9)
FTSE 100
4424.3 (+4.0)
New York Dow Jones
6935.46 (-65.43)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
17923.64 (-275.10)

Whatever happened to the Clarke boom?

ROGER BOOTLE

Maudling, Barber, Lawson. Put any of these names of Conservative Chancellors before the word "boom" and you evoke not only a period in our history but also a distinctive national economic mood — overweening confidence and bravado, followed by disillusion bordering on despair.

Just a few months ago, the prevailing smart opinion was that the name "Clarke" was soon to be added to this list; 1997 was going to be a bumper year, with all the usual after-effects, including sharply rising inflation and much higher interest rates.

But not any more. Even the Bank of England is busy back-tracking from last autumn's frantic calls for higher rates. This Wednesday's retail sales figures will probably confirm that, although consumer spending remains healthy, there is no spending splurge. Whatever happened to the Clarke boom?

Some of the answer may be that the strong pound has taken the edge off the corporate sector's confidence. But the real effect of this is yet to come. Some of the answer is perhaps that consumers have come to fear higher interest rates and perhaps, also, the prospect of higher taxes under Labour.

The simple truth, though, is that the Clarke boom was always a creature of imagination. For officials in the Bank and the Treasury it was the stuff of nightmares. They had failed to spot the Lawson boom coming and then had failed to blow the whistle. Afterwards came the inflationary upsurge, the recession, the painful period in the ERM and the even more painful exit.

Then, against their expectations and as if by accident, Britain stumbled on a winning formula and managed to achieve decent economic growth accompanied by low inflation. They were not going to let this pleasant surprise be overwhelmed by another uncontrolled boom. Hence the Bank's somewhat unbalanced approach to interest rate policy in public, which was shared by many Treasury officials in private. Not for the first time the prevailing obsession was to prevent a repeat of the last policy error.

That error, they thought, had centred on excessively low interest rates, but it had been compounded by the effects of financial market deregulation, which allowed people to spend well beyond their immediate means. Stir in the tax-cutting budget of 1988 and you had the makings of a very heady brew.

How could there be anything like this in the staid 1990s? It would surely take something special to transform matters into even a pale imitation of the Lawson boom. But some commentators thought they could see that something — the "windfall" payouts emerging first from Tessa maturities and then from building society takeovers. These would be the 1990s equivalent of financial market deregulation. Tot up the amounts to be received by consumers and you reached some staggering numbers — the equivalent of 10p, or even 15p, off the standard rate of income tax.

But this analysis was missing something. The magic ingredient in the 1980s was not the deregulation but the boom psychology. It pervaded everything and everybody — mortgage borrowers and mortgage lenders, property developers, retailers, commentators and officials and, of course, Government ministers, who committed the fatal error of believing their own publicity. It was like a mad fever.

Nineties psychology is different. The people who make up the economy that the authorities seek to forecast and control had learned the same lesson from the Lawson boom — "never again". They now see house prices rising nicely, though not spectacularly. Anyway, they may subsequently fall back.

At just over 4 per cent, pay is now rising slightly faster than it was but this is still much *slower* than at any time since the 1960s. At this rate, too large a loan or too high a price paid for a house, will not be easily sloughed off. And in the future, pay rises may turn out to be even lower.

Meanwhile, feelings of job insecurity remain rife. They are not governed by the official jobless numbers but by individuals' daily experience of the startling brutality of the sharp economic changes affecting the world of work, and by their sense of helplessness in the face of them.

This change of attitude shows up clearly in saving and borrowing behaviour. In the Eighties boom, consumer spending rose much faster than personal incomes. The gap was made up by borrowing and dissaving. The proportion of personal incomes devoted to saving fell from over 13 per cent in 1980 to a mere 6 per cent in 1988. By contrast, the current healthy growth in consumer spending is being driven by increases in incomes. Last year, the proportion of incomes devoted to saving remained roughly constant at above 11 per cent.

So in this environment the overwhelming response to the windfall payouts is to save them. They are predominantly regarded as non-repeatable capital sums to be kept for that rainy day. This epitomises the difference between now and the late Eighties. Then, such windfalls might have been used to support a monster loan, or simply splashed out in the apparent assumption that next year, and the year after, there would be some other, as yet unimagined, bonanza.

Some of this new-found sanity is surely the result of lingering memories of the pain of the last recession. In time these will fade. But most of it, I suspect, is the result of living without the illusions created by high inflation. This will endure. And the result is another surprise for forecasters and wary officials alike — no Clarke boom, no need for a sharp rise in interest rates and no bust afterwards.

Adam Jones runs the rule over a fledgeling among MBA schools

Oxford's 'baby' means business

PAUL FIEVEZ

Managing the news: Sayra Can, left, who is one of only five women enrolled on the Oxford MBA, with Jinhua Gao, a fellow graduate student

The ongoing controversy over Wafic Said's proposed £20 million gift to Oxford University for a "new" business school has eclipsed one important point. The university already has one.

The financier's donation, which has been delayed by wrangles over a site, is to expand the existing School of Management Studies rather than to create something from scratch. Said wants a Master of Business Administration (MBA) course to compete with the best US schools.

After plans to develop playing fields in the city centre were voted down by dons, there is now a race to find a suitable site by late June.

But the foundations for a world-class MBA have been laid already, and not without opposition of their own. Last October the School of Management Studies launched the Oxford MBA, in addition to undergraduate management teaching. It accepted 49 students from around the world for a one-year course, half the length of many competitors.

Professor Anthony Hopwood, the director, says the average GMAT score, the measure of cognitive ability used by many graduate schools, is high at 650. The intake includes an array of Rhodes Scholars, following in the footsteps of Bill Clinton, and high-flyers from China, Pakistan and Turkey.

There is also a former head of the foreign exchange regulation directorate at the National Bank of Belarus, and a second lieutenant in the US Army. She graduated with distinction from West Point, the elite military academy. But there are some second-class degrees from UK universities, too, backed up by more impressive job histories.

One of the youngest students is Clyde Seepersad, 23, from Trinidad. Having studied in Barbados, he worked for Trinidad's Ministry of Finance. Mr Seepersad's public service background would please the university traditionalists — and their anti-commercial bias.

But a flick through a book of student CVs reveals a number with the investment banking background they would be less keen on, as well as a lack of women. Even by Oxford's historic standards, five women out of 49 is bad. To an outsider observing one Monday morning lecture, there is a palpable hollowness when the talk turns to the glass ceiling that holds back women's careers.

And when a male student jokes that it's hard to see the glass ceiling from his elevated position, he's probably being more truthful than he realises.

It's something that worries Professor Hopwood. But he says the number of women accepted was proportionally more than those who applied.

In choosing Oxford, some students were taking a risk. In the US, and now here, MBAs are passports to huge starting salaries in finance or industry.

Reputation is everything and a fledgeling course may be a gamble. It's not cheap either. The course fees are £13,000 for the year, with an additional £2,000 to be paid to one of the colleges. For their part, the students are certain that the Oxford cachet will more than compensate, particularly overseas. As such, they are sensitive to erroneous newspaper reports that suggest the course is not a real part of the university. The brand name must be protected.

The integration of the MBA with other faculties at Oxford enables it to borrow academics from departments such as politics: a huge plus denied to stand-alone business schools.

The launch party made use of one of Oxford's non-academic assets: it was held at Le Petit Blanc, the new Raymond Blanc restaurant, where the Conran-designed interior is a far cry from the Radcliffe Infirmary, the 18th-century building that houses the course. Elegant as the Radcliffe façade may be students have to pick their way past patients in the corridors. The juxtaposition of the two — management and health — begs to be used as a metaphor for the post-Thatcher NHS.

The facilities are neat and modern, though. Students can plug their laptop computers into desks in the lecture hall and download teaching material. And on the evidence of just a couple of lectures, the teaching can be a good deal more playful than some traditional courses.

When explaining the concept of "groupthink", David Faulkner searches for an example. It refers to the way workers can retreat into dull conformity, particularly under a domineering leader. Mr Faulkner, a former McKinsey consultant, settles on the ministers who served under Baroness Thatcher. "If they stopped agreeing," he says, "they were back on the back benches." The students take the point: "groupthink" is bad.

It seems like a very Oxford way to teach business. The university has had a fraught relationship with the former leader, culminating in the refusal to offer her an honorary degree. Incorporating its enemy into cautionary case studies would be a neat way of throwing punches after the bell. But Mr Faulkner's example is tongue-in-cheek, as is his reference to the managerial war cry of "Let's kick arse ... or whatever they say in America." This may not be the stuff to stave off snobbish comments in senior common rooms from a few academics unconvinced of the rigour of management studies.

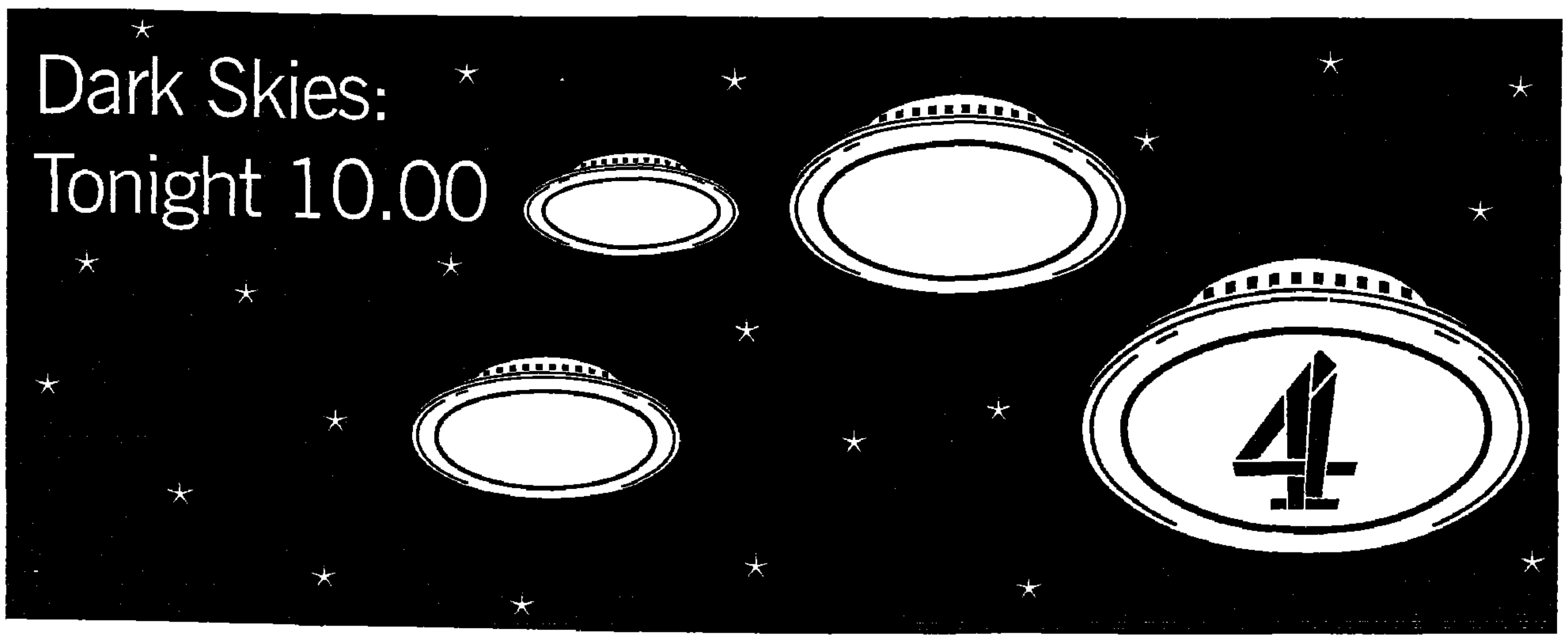
There are those who believe some of the opposition to the new building plan was fuelled by this traditionalist distrust. But Oxford can take heart from a US business school. Jeffrey Garten, Dean of the Yale School of Management and a former Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade under Bill Clinton, says: "There are some great parallels between what has happened at Oxford and Yale. The Yale School of Management was set up 20 years ago amid tremendous controversy."

For many at Yale, founded in 1701 by Connecticut clergymen, a business school did not fit in with its traditional public service ethos. "Yale was anti-commercial until very recently," he says.

Mr Garten admits that it has taken the best part of 20 years to find equilibrium, adopting a more "liberal arts" approach emphasising links to other departments and to public service. But there is work to be done before Oxford is viewed as an integral part of the premier league of international management schools. It will have to overcome sceptical comparisons with America's established big-hitters. European schools, such as Insead in Fontainebleau, France, must also be challenged.

Mr Garten, an interested party but one whose international trade experience embraces a huge swathe of the industrialised world, is politely damning about the current UK threat: "When I hear about competition from abroad I never hear about the British schools."

Class of 97: you have been challenged.



RADIO CHOICE

A brutal homecoming

The Monday Play: Capricornia. *Radio 4, 7.45pm.*

Australian cinema has long since come out of the shadows and established an international reputation, but Australian theatre still provokes something of "what's that?" response on this side of the world. *Capricornia*, however, is already familiar to theatre buffs here and is bound to attract wider acclaim with this radio production, made in conjunction with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and recorded in Perth. The story is of a sophisticated man who returns to the Northern Territory where he was brought up. As a boy he believed his mother was a Javanese princess and his father a war hero; as a man he discovers the brutal truth.

Sounding the Century. *Radio 3, 9.35pm.*

This programme in Radio 3's cultural survey of the century is subtitled *The 60s — Paperback Writers* and is worth hearing if only for interviews with Saul Bellow and Camille Paglia, from which you will realise that the theme is writers. One can see why Bellow is present but Paglia, a fashionable figure of this decade rather than any previous one, is harder to place in the 1960s. She claims, however, to be very much a product of that era. More interestingly, the decade in which the death of the novel was first promulgated seems to have been chronicled much better by writers than by the electronic media that was supposed to usurp them. But perhaps such predictions were merely premature.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe and Boy Lard live from Manchester **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** Andy Kershaw **10.30** Mary Ann Hobbs **1.00am** Claire Sturgess **4.00** Clive Warren with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Steve Wright at the Movies **7.30** Malcolm Laycock with Dance Band Days **8.30** Big Band Special **9.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **10.00** Vaudeville Red-Hot and Blue **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Charles Nove, includes Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine with Diana Madill **12.00** Midday with Mair, includes at **12.35pm** Moneycheck **2.00** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Julian Worricker Nationwide News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Voices of Sport: Dan Maskell **8.00** Football Forum with Eleanor Oldroyd, Mark Bosnich, Brendan Batson and Pat Murphy **10.00** News Talk with Jeremy Vine **11.00** Night Extra with Valerie Singleton **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT**. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Red Dwarf (3/12) **7.30** The Vintage Chart Show **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Ship of Light **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Anything Goes **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Red Dwarf (3/12) **11.30** Omnibus **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Andy Kershaw **2.05** Outlook **2.30** John Peel **3.05** Sport **3.15** The Learning World **3.30** Omnibus **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.30** Just a Minute **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack: Hit List **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Moments That Changed Our World **9.45** First on the Scene **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Record News **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** Global Concerns **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Omnibus **3.15** Sport **3.30** Meridian **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Mozart (Flute Concerto in G major K313) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Saint-Saëns (Bassoon Sonata Op 168) **8.00** Evening Concert. Hamilton Harty (In Ireland); Franz Danzi (Flute Concerto No 2 in D minor Op 31); Arnold Bax (The Garden of Fand); Hamilton Harty (An Irish Symphony) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte **(FM)** / Robin Banks **(AM)** **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Strauss (Suite: Der Rosenkavalier); Wiren (Serenade for Strings); Scarlatti (Sonata in C sharp minor); Hahn (Le Bal de Beatrice d'Este); Allesandro Marcello (Concerto No 3 in B minor); Strauss (Don Juan)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes Lully (Dances from the Cassel Manuscript); Bach (French Suite No 6 in E, BWV817); Vivaldi (Dixit Dominus, RV595)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mairi Nicholson. Includes Rameau (Overture Hippolyte and Aricie); Mozart (Piano Sonata in C minor, K457); Cowell (Air and Scherzo); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in A, Op 47); Ravel (Trois Chansons); Dutilleux (Timbres, Espace, Mouvement); Franck (Symphonic Variations)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Henry Cowell

1.00pm News; BBC Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Boris Berman, piano. Beethoven (Sonata in F, Op 54), Stravinsky (Serenade in A); Debussy (Preludes, Book 1)

2.00 From the Proms. Another chance to hear Thomas Zehetmair, violin, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Frans Bruggen. Rameau (Suite Les Fêtes d'Hébé); Haydn (Symphony No 103 in E flat); Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D) (r)

3.45 Voices. Iain Burnside investigates whether absence really does make the heart grow fonder (r)

4.30 The Baritone Saxophone. John Surman continues his exploration into the history of his instrument (3/5) (r)

5.00 Music Machine. Tommy Pearson takes a look at the trends in classical music during the 1960s, with the help of Ivan Hewett

5.15 In Tune, with Natalie Wheen. Includes J C. Bach (Sinfonia in B flat, Op 6 No 4); Beethoven (Variations on Ich Bin eine Schneider Kakadu, Op 121a); Ravel (La Valse)

7.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Andrew Davis. With Heinrich Schiff, cello. Britten (Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge); Elgar (Cello Concerto in E minor); Brahms (Symphony No 4 in E minor)

9.35 Sounding the Century: The 60s — Paperback Writers. See Choice (1/5)

10.00 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a recital by Alexander Baillie, cello, and Marc-Andre Hamelin, piano. Debussy (Cello Sonata); Martinu (Variations on a Theme of Rossini); Stravinsky (Suite Italienne)

10.45 Mixing It, with Mark Russell and Robert Sandall

11.30 Composers of the Week: Campra, Clérambault and Montéclair (r)

12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather presents a session from Tim Richard's Spirit Level

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes **1.00** Schubert (Piano Trio No 1 in B flat, D898; Symphony No 8 in B minor, Unfinished) **2.30** Songs by William Harris **3.00** Schools **5.00** Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.45** Letters from Here and There **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with *Times* columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests Rosie Boycott, Steven Rose, Margaret Wertheim, Aubrey Manning and Jonathan Sawday

10.00 News; The Lipman Test (FM). Maureen Lipman meets bus enthusiasts (4/6)

10.00 Daily Service (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour

11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444. Personal finance news

12.00 News; You and Yours (FM). Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker

12.25pm Counterpoint. Ned Sherrin hosts the general knowledge music quiz **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (FM) (r)

2.00 News; Waterland, by Graham Swift. With Roy Marsden and Tom Bevan (2/3)

3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker presents an Indian edition, meeting Ravi Shankar and the conductor Zubin Mehta. Plus a review of a new biography of Gandhi and an opera setting of Kipling's soldier poems

4.45 Short Story: Shutting Darkness Down. Garrick Hagon read James Sallis's crime story

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 The News Quiz. Simon Hoggart chairs the comedy quiz show. The panellists are Andrew Rawnsley, Tony Hawks and regulars Andy Hamilton, *Times* columnist Alan Coren (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (r)

7.45 The Monday Play: Capricornia. See Choice

9.15 Whippets and Marsupials. Two men swap jobs in Britain and Australia (2/4) (r)

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Roger Hearing

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Duel. Stephen Boxer reads Joseph Conrad's story of two officers in Napoleon's army who begin a duel that will last a lifetime (1/5) (r)

11.00 The Living World (FM). Lionel Kelleway goes in search of otters foraging for crabs amongst the forests of sea kelp on the Isle of Skye (2/6) (r)

11.00 Education Matters (LW). Presented by Philippa Dolley

11.30 Pankhiraj (FM). A comedy by Tanika Gupta. With Charubala Chokshi, Meera Syal and Vinny Dhillon (3/4) (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00 News incl **12.27am** approx Weather

12.30am Late Book: The Hobbit, by J R R Tolkien. Read by Michael Hordern (11/15) (r)

12.48 Shipping Forecast

1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Little women, ladies in waiting, girls on top

There is a gender paradox about television and it was pointed out by Janet Street-Porter at the weekend. If you look at the best comedies of recent times, which include *Men Behaving Badly* and *One Foot in the Grave*, the key to the hilarious awfulness of their male characters is that they are weak and silly, traits which are thrown into relief by the behaviour of the women characters, who despair with dignity.

Clearly the viewing public, including men, accept this portrayal as reflecting something of their own experience. Men generally agree that women have more common sense, behave with more maturity and have a greater sense of responsibility.

These might be regarded as important characteristics in, say, a television executive, yet nearly all of that breed are men. But Street-Porter did not quite complete the point. Men are happy to commission comedy series in which their gender is made to look ridiculous because they have the self-confidence born of holding power. Secure people can afford to laugh at themselves.

A Night In With The Girls (BBC2, Saturday and Sunday) was an interesting if overlong double-header about women in television, from the early postwar days to the present. In that time, more has changed on the sunlit surface than in the underlying rock strata.

Street-Porter, Esther Rantzen, Anna Ford, Joan Bakewell (who all spoke in the programmes) and others have become household names as screen personalities, yet in recent times there has not been a woman as powerful in the executive corridors as was Grace Wyndham Goldie 40 years ago. Producers such as Verity Lambert and writers such as Lynda La Plante hold considerable sway, but the territory where schedules are made remains under male control.

And under male patronage, in all senses of the word. When Goldie moved from radio to television the team around her was known as "Grace's boys". Rantzen recalls how her own team at *That's Life* became "Esther's boys", yet no such epithet is applied to male-run departments. Rantzen made the related point that when *Spitting Image* wished to show Margaret Thatcher's dominance, her puppet was dressed in a man's suit.

However, there is an incriminating downside to every argument. Both Goldie and Rantzen did tend to surround themselves with men, leaving them open to the charge that they did little to promote the cause of women other than themselves. But television's treatment of women has improved a bit: Sylvia Peters, a continuity announcer from the 1950s, recalled how, when she married a floor manager, the couple were given a week's wedding leave . . . but each was given a different week.

REVIEW

Peter Barnard

The best drama of the weekend had a strong woman and indeed a fictional, male BBC executive who was shown briefly listening to the corporation's head of gobbledegook. **Family Money** (Channel 4), a four-part serial which began last night, had me riveted from the start, even though I was close to the end of part one before a character inadvertently explained what the piece was all about. "The point is," she said, "is it entirely her own or is it family money she intends to throw about? Well, that's the point." Oh, I see.

The woman throwing money about is Fran Pye, brilliantly played by Claire Bloom. Pye is a gentle matriarch who has gone a bit funny in the head, having been mugged while trying to save a man from being beaten to death after a car accident. Therefore one strand of the plot is to do with Fran, widow of a diplomat, selling her house and the offspring wondering if they might get a slice of the proceeds. The other strand concerns Fran's gradual recall of the mugging: is that chap living on a canal boat at the back of her home the one who hit her?

Family Money is based on Nina Bawden's book. Both the adaptation by Ruth Carter and the direction of Renny Rye have a rhythm which holds the attention and the acting is first-rate from top to bottom. Bloom stands out because she so assured, such a screen presence. She won a Bafta for her performance in the BBC's *Shadowlands* and will be a candidate again after this.

My heart sinks when something turns up described as a "feel-good fantasy" but alliterative hype should not put us off **Early Edition**, which arrived with a pilot episode on ITV on Saturday (it is already on Sky 1). *Early Edition* is that rare bird, a good show based on a daft idea: examples of the reverse are easier to find.

The programme is American and concerns a young broker in Chicago who gets a copy of the *Sun-Times* delivered to his door every day by a cat. It is not today's edition, but tomorrow's. Having this afternoon's racing results this morning may be a licence to print money but Gary Hobson (Kyle Chandler) soon discovers that the advantage has the potential for nightmares. There are elements of *Groundhog Day* and *Back to the Future*, among countless other antecedents, but *Early Edition* is good fun in its own right.

A final word for **Comic Relief** (BBC1 and BBC2, Friday). I grazed here and there rather than munching the whole field and thoroughly enjoyed *Prime Cracker*, in which Robbie Coltrane and Helen Mirren spoofed Fitz and Tennison in a mini-drama cum song and dance act. But quite why *Comic Relief* chooses to risk soiling so much splendid work by introducing adolescent smut, albeit late in the evening, is beyond me. Poverty and malnutrition should embarrass us; there is no need for the means of their relief to do so.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (89982)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (84340)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5045630)
9.20 Style Challenge (4309307)
9.45 Kilroy (4072272)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (29340)
11.00 News and weather (6005369)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (7617098)
11.35 Change That (8285630)
12.00 News and weather (7159098)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5183901)
12.30 Going for a Song (6460369)
12.55 The Weather Show (79524833)
1.00 News (T) and weather (94727)
1.30 Regional News (83201678)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (598185)
2.05 Majority Rule (1992) with Blair Brown, John Glover and Donald Moffat. An army general becomes a high-profile media star after a string of military victories, and decides to run for President. Directed by Gwen Arner (7879543) FILM
3.30 Playdays (5050814) **3.50** Pingu (6415543) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (4961122) **4.10** Gadget Boy (1059104) **4.35** Record Breakers Gold (T) (5097291) **5.00** Newsround (T) (3364494) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (3068415)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (363104)
6.00 News (T) and weather (859)
6.30 Newsroom South East *(611)*
7.00 This Is Your Life (T) (9659)
7.30 Here and Now John Walters celebrates St Patrick's Day by visiting some of the Irish theme pubs which have sprung up. Plus: the second part of Tony Wilkinson's report on homelessness in the 1990s (T) (123)
8.00 EastEnders Sarah gets a shock when she pays Alistair a visit (T) (8307)
8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart Gary decides to take a break with Phoebe (T) (7814)
9.00 News (T) and weather (9494)
9.30 Panorama Is traffic on our roads driving us mad? (T) (760388)
10.10 Jaws: The Revenge (1987) with Michael Caine, Lorraine Gary and Mario Van Peebles. The remaining members of the Brody family are terrorised by a huge, bloodthirsty shark. Directed by Joseph Sargent (5563901) FILM **WALES: 10.10** *The Slate (457104)* **10.40** A Parent's Guide (387712) **10.55** Film 97 (521475) **11.25** Welsh Questions (813861) **12.00** FILM: Jaws the Revenge (60054833) **1.35am** FILM: Hair (205031) **3.30** News
11.40 Film 97 with Barry Norman Includes reviews of the re-released *Star Wars*, *Dante's Peak*, with Pierce Brosnan, and *Romeo and Juliet*, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes (T) (419727)
12.10am Hair (1979) Musical set in the 1960s, with John Savage as a Vietnam conscript from Oklahoma who joins a group of hippies in New York until he is summoned to undergo military training. Directed by Milos Forman (422050) FILM
2.05 Weather (8132876)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Quality Care (7071630) **6.25** The Three Degrees (7090765) **6.50** How We Study Children (T) (9822494) **7.15** News (T) (7994185) **7.30** Wacky Races (8755727) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (3128901) **8.20** Pingu (r) (3483272) **8.25** Hairy Jeremy (r) (6866456) **8.35** Lassie (r) (5711185) **9.00** TV6 (38098) **9.30** Go for It! (7848388) **9.45** Technology Starters (7836543) **10.00** Playdays (79920) **10.30** Landmarks (2140185) **10.50** Look and Read (2160949) **11.10** Zig Zag (9079036) **11.30** Teaching Today (8901) **12.00** Belief File Islam (41562) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (78104) **1.00** History File (47308659) **1.20** German Globo (66512524) **1.25** Landmarks (47310494) **1.45** Storytime (83288727) **2.00** Pingu (r) (27137901) **2.05** Hairy Jeremy (r)
2.15 Holiday Camp (1947, b/w) Romantic drama with Kathleen Harrison, Dennis Price, Flora Robson and Jack Warner. Directed by Ken Annakin (653678) FILM
3.55 News (T) and weather (6412456)
4.00 Today's the Day (524) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (956) **5.00** Esther: Maureen Lipman (2415)
5.30 Going, Going, Gone (388)
6.00 The Simpsons (T) (353253)
6.25 Space Precinct (r) (T) (487746)
7.10 Electric Circus (r) (757475)
7.30 The Sci Files: The Last Nobel? How does the Government plan to reverse the decline of science-based industries in the UK? (765)
8.00 Top Gear Motorsport Tiff Needell and Mark James report on the Swedish leg of the World Rally Championship (T) (6949)
8.30 CHOICE **Ray Mears's World of Survival: Savaii** (T) (5456)
9.00 Outer Limits In the first of a new sci-fi series: a deaf woman is used as a medium by aliens (T) (597833)

Amita Dhiri, Andrew Lincoln (9.45pm)

9.45 CHOICE **This Life** Return of the gritty serial about young legal eagles (T) (516494)
10.28 Science Week: Shapes of the Invisible (411562)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (618746)
11.15 CHOICE **Walden on Callaghan** Last of the profiles on postwar Labour leaders (T) (342663)
11.45 Animated 2 (219814)
11.55 Weather (473185)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (50234)
12.30am Learning Zone: Open University, the Palazzo Pubblico, Siena (37895) **1.00** What Was Modernism? (49401) **1.30** A Change of Key (57708) **2.00** Nightschool TV. Newsfile — Geography and Politics (94857) **4.00** BBC Focus: Italia 2000 (60857) **4.30** Royal Institution Discourse: Restoring paintings (68234) **5.30** RCN Nursing Update

CHOICE

Ray Mears's World of Survival
BBC2, 8.30pm

The "wilderness expert" is in Western Samoa this week but not to celebrate that tiny country's extraordinary prowess on the rugby field. Mears is concerned with more basic things, such as finding food and building shelters. Anybody who is likely to appear on *Desert Island Discs* in the near future should tune in and take note for here are perfect answers to those inevitable questions about catching fish and building shelters. The Western Samoans are not above using chainsaws and electric ovens when it suits them but mostly they rely on the traditional ways which have served them well for centuries. Here are step-by-step guides to making a house resilient enough to resist the local typhoons, hollowing out a log to produce a canoe and wrapping a stone in leaves to catch an octopus.

Cutting Edge: Jilted
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Once again there is no shortage of ordinary people willing to face the cameras and relive some of their most embarrassing moments. Tonight's subjects have all been jilted and it is a more painful experience than you might think. Poor Chris was told by his bride-to-be, Fiona, on the morning of the wedding that she could not go through with it. He took an overdose and spent what would have been the first night of his honeymoon in hospital. Nobody else in the film reacted that badly but there is plenty of heartache on display, even after the passage of many years. Dorothy was engaged to a French sailor, whom she first met as a pen friend at school. The wedding was set for April 1947 but he failed to show and she never saw him again. We follow her to France as she visits his grave and tries to discover why he let her down.

This Life
BBC2, 9.45pm

The drama about young flat-sharing lawyers who spend more time in the bedroom than the courtroom returns for a second series. The show has been much praised for its uninhibited portrayal of twentysomething angst, though this lot seem to have more that their share of sexual hang-ups. But the overwhelming impression, as we renew acquaintance with Milly, Egg, Anna, Miles and Warren, is of how little has changed. Like all soap operas, *This Life* has the knack of spinning out storylines almost to infinity. At this rate the flatmates will still be trying to resolve their relationships well into the 21st century. By then it will be time for John Major's exciting new pensions scheme, or its Labour equivalent, though our lawyers will probably have made so much money that they will not need to depend on it.

Walden on Callaghan
BBC2, 11.15pm

Brian Walden's closely-argued assessment of the last Labour Prime Minister is based on a paradox. It was James Callaghan's supposed political strength, his ability to understand and deal with the trade unions, that proved to be his downfall. Walden traces the theme back to the poverty Callaghan experienced during his childhood. This made him see the union movement as a struggle of the downtrodden against exploitation and, in later years, to be fiercely protective of union powers. Walden argues that the crucial year in Callaghan's career was 1969, when he opposed *In Place of Strife*. This gave the unions the signal that they could rely on him as an ally and led to the winter of discontent that swept Labour from power. The irony was that in contributing to the defeat of Callaghan, the unions ushered in Margaret Thatcher **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV *(6456746)*
9.25 Chain Letters (T) (4384098)
9.55 Regional News *(T) (5176185)*
10.00 The Time, the Place (73746)
10.30 This Morning (49092974)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (7148982)
12.30 News (T) and weather (6488765)
12.55 High Road (T) (6463456) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (47398272) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (r) (11503017) **2.20** Savannah (r) (8636185)
3.20 News (T) (6351271)
3.25 Regional News *(T) (7701712)*
3.30 Tots TV (5511861) **3.40** Rainbow Days (9512814) **3.50** Gooly (7416497) **4.05** Sooty's Amazing Adventures (2323814) **4.20** Snap (T) (1040456) **4.45** Art Attack (T) (5088543)
5.10 Sorted: Family Life New series of the magazine for teenagers (5233659)
5.40 News (T) and weather (506982)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (380307)
6.25 HTV Weather (266388)
6.30 HTV News (T) (307)

Judith Chalmers visits Jordan (7pm)

7.00 Wish You Were Here? Includes the top three holiday destinations chosen for the Tourism for Tomorrow awards. Plus, Judith Chalmers visits a historical farming village in Jordan which has been restored by locals, Sheryl Simms discovers some of the lesser-known delights of Majorca and John Carter travels through Acapulco and Mexico City (T) (4727)
7.30 Coronation Street Fraser offers Liz the chance to begin a entirely new life. Tricia confirms Jack's suspicions with a heartfelt confession (T) (291)
8.00 World in Action Hard-hitting investigative reports on topical issues (T) (3475)
8.30 Kavanagh QC: Ancient History A highly respected family doctor is prosecuted for his alleged involvement in Nazi war crimes during the Second World War (T) (72901)
10.00 News (T) and weather (46017)
10.30 Regional News (T) (662384)
10.40 Nash Bridges A bus transporting a group of prisoners to court is hijacked in downtown San Francisco (T) (160524)
11.35 So You Think You're Irish Barry Murphy introduces stand-up routines and sketches performed by top Irish comedians in a star-studded charity gala. The featured acts include Ed Byrne, Brendan O'Caroll, Owen O'Neill and Dylan Moran, plus, a special item by the writers of *Father Ted* (867920)
1.00 Not Fade Away (46789) **2.00** Planet Rock Profiles (66031) **2.30** Football Extra (7009012) **3.15** Club Nation *(r)* (761499) **4.15** Sound Bites (19241654) **4.30** World in Action (r) (T) (19050) **5.00** Coronation Street (88692) (r) *(T)* **5.30** News (55789)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6463456)
1.50 Blue Heelers (8103949)
2.45 Breakaways (9931291)
2.50-3.20 High Road (5819104)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5233659)
6.25-7.00 Central News (737253)
11.35 So You Think You're Irish (877307)
12.55am Not Fade Away (5590673)
1.55 Planet Rock Profiles (9852673)
2.30 Stand and Deliver (4551789)
4.00 Central Jobfinder '97 (1166944)
5.20 Asian Eye (8058031)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (7148982)
12.55-1.25 Gardener's Diary (6463456)
1.50 Ruth Meets the Entertainers (11503017)
2.20 A Country Practice (2062659)
3.10-3.20 Breakaways (1064630)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5233659)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (80949)
10.30 Westcountry News (967776)
10.45-11.40 Nash Bridges (192123)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6463456)
1.50 Getaways (11503017)
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (8636185)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5233659)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (727)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (307)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (967776)
10.45-11.40 Nash Bridges (192123)
5.00am Freescreen (88692)

ANGLIA

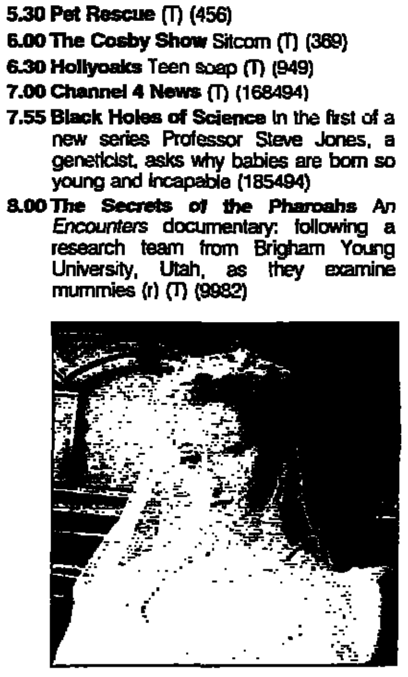
As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7167017)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6463456)
1.50 Blue Heelers (8187901)
2.50-3.20 Jungle on Your Doorstep (5819104)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5233659)
6.23 Anglia Weather (267017)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (737253)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (415388)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (967776)
10.45-11.40 Nash Bridges (192123)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (51720) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (17678) **9.00 Bewitched** (56494) **9.30 Ysgolion** (100974) **12.00 Right to Reply** (36630) **12.30pm Ellen** (63272) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (10765) **1.30 Film: The Man from Colorado** (1948) with Glenn Ford, William Holden and Ellen Drew. The tale of a brutal judge (55419340) **3.20 Fresh Pop** (1515443) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (185) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (920) **4.30 The Lost Gardens of Heligan** (104) **5.00 5 Pump** (5833) **5.30 Countdown** (456) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (904036) **6.05 Heno** (368185) **6.35 Jacpot** (273678) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (478456) **7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar** (407920) **8.00 Ma' Ifan 'Ma** (1017) **8.30 Newyddion** (7104) **9.00 I Dot** (9746) **10.00 Sgorio** (2833) **11.00 NBA Raw** (97814) **12.00 Film: Closing Numbers** (1993) with Jane Asher, Patrick Pearson and Tim Woodward Controversial drama (426876) **1.55am Diwedd** (53188963) **4.00 Ysgolion** (420944) **5.35 Diwedd** (8630234)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (51720)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (17678)
9.00 Bewitched *(r) (T)* (56494)
9.30 Schools (T) (100974) Summer Term Preview **9.45** Book Box (T) **10.00** Stage Two Science (T) **10.15** Learn Sign Language **10.20** Place and People (T) **10.40** The English Programme **11.05** Encyclopedia Galactica **11.15** The Mix (T) **11.30** Rat-A-Tat-Tat **11.45** Living and Growing (T)
12.00 Right to Reply (r) (T) (36630)
12.30pm Baby It's You (2/6) *(r)* (T) (63272)
1.00 Ellen (T) (10765)
1.30 Pete Smith Specialties (b/w) (83278340)
1.45 Kentucky (1948, b/w) with Loretta Young, Richard Greene and Walter Brennan. A romantic tale of horseracing folk. Directed by David Butler (T) (19698235) FILM
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (185)
4.00 Fifteen-To-One (T) (920)
4.30 Countdown (T) (104)
5.00 The Montel Williams Show (T) (5833)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (456)
6.00 The Cosby Show Sitcom (T) (369)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (949)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (168494)
7.55 Black Holes of Science In the first of a new series Professor Steve Jones, a geneticist, asks why babies are born so young and incapable (185494)
8.00 The Secrets of the Pharoahs An *Encounters* documentary: following a research team from Brigham Young University, Utah, as they examine mummies (r) (T) (9982)



Abandoned at the altar (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Cutting Edge: Jilted** Eight people profoundly affected by being left at the altar (T) (9746)
10.00 Dark Skies Offbeat science fiction drama series (T) (2833)
11.00 NBA Raw Basketball (97814)
12.00 For the Love Of . . . Jon Ronson meets six ghost hunters (r) (77586)
1.00am Frontline: Animal Research (r) (T) (8945147)
1.45 Lost Animals The Caribbean Monk Seal (3563789)
1.50 Angels of Mercy? Animal rights' activists (r) (T) (8467383)
2.20 Lost Animals The Moorean tree snail (8146079)
2.25 Sexual Imperative Human sexuality (r) *(T)* (4885296)
3.25 Lost Animals Burchell's *Zebra* (73334437)
3.30 The Grampian Sheepdog Trials (r) (67760)
4.00 Schools History in Action (420944)
5.35 Terrytoons (8630234). Ends at **6.00**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (439388) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (59253) **10.00** Another World (58949) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (38185) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (98253) **1.00pm** Geraldo (13291) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (10291) **3.00** Jenny Jones (20017) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (66104) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (6104) **6.00** Real TV (2494) *6.30 Married — with Children (3746)* **7.00** The Simpsons (7833) **7.30** M*A*S*H (2630) **8.00** Secret of Lake Success (56920) **10.00** Nash Bridges (42727) **11.00** Selina Scott Tonight (16663) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (30388) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (51499) **1.00** Hit Mix (1737437)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (6789369) **8.00** Star Trek: Voyager (6778017) **9.00** Poltergeist: The Legacy (6758253) **10.00** Outer Limits (6751340) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (6382543) **12.00** Hit Mix (9255383)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Letter (1981) (10497) **8.00 Attack on the Iron Coast (1968)** (85253) **10.00 Return to Peyton Place (1961)** (96524) **12.00 Someone Else's Child (1994)** (24494) **2.00pm Corrina, Corrina (1994)** (88307) **4.00 MacShayne: Final Roll of the Dice (1993)** (1036) **6.00 Freefall: Flight 174 (1993)** (69630) **7.30 El Fantasma** (4098) **8.00 Corrina, Corrina (1994)** (58388) **10.00 Haunted (1995)** (399630) **11.55 Immortal Beloved (1994)** (235253) **1.55am Halls of Anger (1970)** (531128) **3.35 A Walk with Love and Death (1969)** (48577692)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am On the Riviera (1951) (10479) **8.00 Oliver Twist (1987)** (85235) **10.00 The Pride of Jesse Hallam (1981)** (27494) **12.00 One Cooks, the Other Doesn't (1983)** (22036) **2.00pm The Roots of Heaven (1958)** (85089017) **4.10 Oliver Twist (1987)** (76622974) **6.00 Monkey Trouble (1994)** (44185) **8.00 Jack Reed: One of Our Own (1995)** (49630) **10.00 Waterworld (1995)** (49059369) **12.15am Mrs Parker and the Vicious Circle (1994)** (26216225) **2.20 Against All Odds (1984)** (80716401) **4.25 On the Riviera (1951)** (693963)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm West Side Story (1961) (8213562) **8.30 Nadine (1987)** (3066185) **10.00 Marathon Man (1976)** (70457746) **12.10am Victor, Victoria (1982)** (27846760) **2.25 Rasputin: The Mad Monk (1966)** (6219585) **4.00-5.50** ***Ninotchka (1939)*** *(4332811)*

TNT

9.00pm Gigi (1958) (92867369) **11.00 Mrs Miniver (1942)** (86304291) **1.20am Double Bunk (1960)** (16873091) **2.55-5.00 Gigi (1958)** (32992876)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am World Sport Special (71814) **7.30** Beach Volleyball (23833) **8.30** Racing News (91104) **9.00** World of Speed and Beauty (82456) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (28746) ***10.00*** *Super League (53122)* **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (95920) **12.30pm** Football Special (53901) **2.00** Futbol Mundial (4901) **2.30** Football League Review (99307) **4.00** World Wide Rugby (4524) **6.00** Sports Centre (2611) **6.30** Tartan Extra (6291) **7.00** Monday Night Football (42659) **8.30** Live Spanish Football (83630) **10.30** Sports Centre (89369) **11.00** Tartan Extra (55727) **11.30** Monday Night Football (99630) **1.00** Spanish Football (38692) **3.00am-3.30** Sports Centre (68963)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Live Cricket (68384901) **3.30pm** Live International Cricket (93168456) **9.00** High Five (32052253) **9.30** World Motor Sport (56581562) **11.00-11.30** Rebel Sports (32054098)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Cross-Country Skiing (85017) **8.00** Snowboarding (65497) **9.00** Skiing: World Cup Final (36253) **11.00** Cross-Country Skiing World Cup (94765) **12.00** Nordic Combined Skiing: World Cup (64611) **1.30pm** Snowboarding (16901) **2.00** Ski-Jumping (97291) **4.00** Rugby Union. World Cup Sevens — the Road to Hong Kong (72494) ***5.00*** Football: 1981 FA Cup (94561) **6.00** Speedworld (77707302) **7.45** Athletics: All Africa International Invitational (475678) **9.00** Sumo (98920) **10.00** Eurogoals (52497) **11.00-12.30am** Snooker: John Parrott v Jimmy White (77920)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (6643185) **7.35** Neighbours (9408765) **8.00** Crossroads (1163340) **8.25** EastEnders (8434275) **9.00** The Bill (2986524) **9.30** Bread (2739659) **10.00** Never the Twain (4389920) **10.30** The Sullivans (2915036) **11.00** Bergerac (8241678) **12.00** Crossroads (2906388) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2733475) **1.00** EastEnders (5678271) **1.35** Dick Emery Short (3557307) **2.10** A Diddy Bit of Dodd (28748104) **2.20** Fairly Secret Army (7584388) **2.55** 'Allo 'Allo! (6870982) **3.30** The Bill (8386611) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (5439901) **5.00** Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game (56414901) **6.05** EastEnders (4432794) **6.40** Are You Being Served? (3528562) **7.20** Russ Abbot (7419920) **7.50** Bullseye (1436098) **8.30** To Be the Best (58361291) **10.25** The Bill (1994369) **11.00** Spitting Image (5430630) **11.30** Dr Who Omnibus (31674669) **2.15am** Shopping (52760895)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Krypton Factor (2773746) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (99446185) **6.45** Our Backyard (15760920) **7.00** Allsorts (4261253) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (5684017) **7.30** Children's Ward (6636746) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (4826833) **8.30** Families (4825104) **9.00** The Professionals (2782494) **10.00** Please Sir! (7921543) **10.30** No Honestly (4805340) **11.00** Within These Walls (6645494) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (4829920) **12.30pm** Families (7791340) **1.00** Crown Court (6616982) **1.30** Good Life Guide (7790611) **2.00** A Family at War (7922272) **3.00** Up Stairs, Downstairs (1724746) **4.00** Doctor Series (6964104) **4.30** Please Sir! (6960388) **5.00** The Professionals (6034630) **6.00** Families (6941253) **6.30** Classic Coronation Street (6965833) **7.00** Doctor Series (6043659) **7.30** No Honestly (6961017) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (7449456) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (1732765) **9.30** The Comedians (7711104) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (7462307)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (8175217) **6.25** Quack Attack (9620302) **6.50** Bonkers (3364746) **7.15** Little Mermaid (1678833) **7.40** Aladdin [illegible] **8.05** New Doug (3074659) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (2197415) **8.40** Care Bears [illegible] **9.10** Groundling Marsh [illegible] **9.40** Big Garage [illegible] **9.55** Lamb Chop's Play Along [illegible] **10.25** Muppet Babies (5923727) **10.50** Jumbo Circus (1857814) **11.20** Mouse Tracks (4401369) **11.50** Pooh Corner (1982104) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (5831765) **12.35** Little Mermaid [illegible] **1.00** Disney Presents (1545930) **1.50** Aladdin [illegible] **2.10** Darkwing Duck [illegible] **2.35** Bonkers (5746611) **3.00** Quack Attack (3534271) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa [illegible] **3.35** Goof Troop [illegible] **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa [illegible] **4.10** Goof Troop (9129630) **4.35** Bonkers [illegible] **5.00** Aladdin [illegible] **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (8247098) **5.35** Darkwing Duck [illegible] **6.00** New Doug [illegible] **6.30** Boy Meets World [illegible] **7.00** Brotherly Love [illegible] **7.30 FILM: Now You See Him, Now You Don't!** [illegible] **9.00** Bone Chillers [illegible] **9.30-10.00** Goober Girl [illegible]

Classic musical drama in *West Side Story* (Sky Movies Gold, 6pm)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am [illegible] **6.30** Inspector Gadget [illegible] **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats [illegible] **7.30** Power Rangers (6395630) **8.00** Masked Rider (7363272) **8.30** Crocadoo (7362543) **9.00** Rimba's Island (5654494) **9.25** Why Why Family (2050494) **9.30** Zoobilee Zoo (3720982) **9.55** Why Why Family (1893052) **10.00** Rimba's Island (9833479) **10.25** Why Why Family (5979001) **10.30** Zoobilee Zoo (9360982) **10.55** Why Why Family (9272746) **11.00** Princess Starla (2821056) **11.30** Pinocchio (2822727) **12.00** Billy the Cat (7373659) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (29826833) **12.50** Power Rangers (29813360) **1.10** Masked Rider (25419949) **1.30** Ace Ventura (6165388) **2.00** Casper (4418901) **2.30** Life with Louie (9304712) **3.00** Eek-Stravaganza (4437036) **3.30** Ace Ventura (2728997) **4.00** Casper (5609104) **4.30** Power Rangers (5904956) **5.00** Masked Rider (4409253) **5.30** Spiderman (1209348) **6.00** Goosebumps (8954271) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (4259663)

TCC

6.00am Anne of Green Gables/Road to Avonlea (18456) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (76982) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (95017) **8.00** Batman (38659) **8.30** Art Attack (20630) **9.00** Flash Gordon (11982) **9.30** Bobby's World (57272) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (49104) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (40494) **11.00** Danger Mouse (92272) **11.30** Gravedale High (93901) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (31746) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (68388) **1.00** By the Way of the Stars (75253) **1.30** Black Beauty (67659) **2.00** Girl from Tomorrow (8217) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (5765) **3.00** Art Attack (2562) **3.30** Flash Gordon (7982) **4.00** Batman (6017) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (5901)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm** Includes Tom and Jerry Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (26949) **6.30** Count Duckula (48098) **7.00** Rocko's Modern Life (9525036) **7.15** Hey Arnold! (6630388) **7.30** Rugrats (81291) **8.00** Doug (90475) **8.30** Arthur (99746) **9.00** Children's BBC (80098) **9.30** Children's BBC (26388) **10.00** Wimzie's House (62678) **10.30** Babar (79982) **11.00** Magic School Bus (61388) **11.30** Henry's Cat/Wil Cwac Cwac/Lizzie's Library/Topsey and Tim/Jimbo (62017) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (93562) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (20104) **1.00** Children's BBC (78727) **1.30** Children's BBC (29475) **2.00** Wubbulous World of Dr Seuss (2543) **2.30** Kissyfur (9524) **3.00** Wishbone (1678) **3.30** Stickin' Around (1369) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (3104) **4.30** Rugrats (0388) **5.00** Sister Sister (6123) **5.30** Moesha (3340) **6.00** Press Gang (6663) **6.30-7.00** Doug (4833)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (2747678) **1.00pm** Madison (8230562) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (2727814) **2.00** Hangtime (4200123) **2.30** California Dreams (8309562) **3.00** Byker Grove (4289630) **3.30** Blast (8311307) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (8390814) **4.30** Hangtime (8396098) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (4291475) **5.30** California Dreams (8310678) **6.00** Byker Grove (8300291) **6.30** Madison (8391543) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (3583104)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (3569524) **9.00** The Burning Zone (3589388) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3582475) **11.00 FILM: Street Fighter II** (6980920) **1.00am** The Burning Zone (5739352) *2.00 Tour of Duty (9814321)* **3.00 FILM: Street Fighter II** (2738925) **5.00** Robocop (8948895)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (3659) **7.30** Roseanne (6807) **8.00** Roseanne (2307) **8.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (1814) **9.00** Cheers (41524) **9.30** Taxi (53140) **10.00** It's Garry Shandling's Show (94291) **10.30** Fraser (70611) **11.00** In Bed with MeDinner (53369) **11.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (51562) **12.00** Nurses (36692) **12.30am** Soap (97215) **1.00** Cheers (46741) **1.30** Taxi (92418) **2.00** Entertainment UK (23321) **2.30** In Bed with McDinner (19128) **3.00** Frasier (66505) **3.30-4.00** It's Garry Shandling's Show (33708)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm The Guyver (3724494) **8.30** Twilight Zone (3703901) **9.00** Sightings (7224920) **9.55 FILM: Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country** (12431017) **12.10am** Incredible Hulk (9705050) **1.05** Twilight Zone (6249470) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3098031) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (4514055) **2.30** Night Gallery (9364352) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (2917494) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (2720901) **10.00** Two's Country Cooking (4387562) **10.30** Our House (2913678) **11.00** Fix It (5446291) **11.30** This Old House (5447920) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (2997630) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2731017) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8243036) **1.30** Home Again (2730388) **2.00** Hometime (4280369) **2.30** Furniture to Go (8312036) **3.00** Two's Country (4292104) **3.30-4.00** This Old House

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Fishing Adventures II (8303388) **4.30** Australia Wild (8392272) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4204949) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (8383524) **6.00** Wild Things (2749036) **7.00** Invention (4284185) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (8393901) **8.00** History's Turning Points (4293833) **8.30** Bush Tucker Man (4272340) **9.00** Lonely Planet (3585562) **10.00** Eco Challenge (3595949) **11.00** Wings (8220185) **12.00** Classic Wheels (2632944) **1.00am** Driving Passions (4302692) **1.30-2.00** The Extremists

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Buffalo Bill (8068494) *5.00 Civil War Journal (3714017)* **6.00** Weapons at War (6246562) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Charles Manson (4439253)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour.
5.05pm Blockbusters (1952340) **5.50** Spellbound (249185) **6.30** Catchphrase (182123) **7.05** Sale of the Century (206291) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (438974) **8.20** All Clued Up (159104) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (490659) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (385388) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (843185) **11.20** Love at First Sight (625291) **12.00** Sale of the Century (74876) **12.30am** Family Late: Hart to Hart (25215) **1.30** Lou Grant (68708) **2.30** Christy (44960) **3.30** All Together Now (42470) **4.00** The Fall Guy (78673) **5.00** HSN Direct Shopping (74627)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (2208630) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (3025630) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (8094036) **10.05** Jerry Springer (4131562) **11.00** Young and the Restless (8535291) **11.45** Super Fresco Fabulosious (44912185) **11.50** Brookside (4200889) **12.25pm** Why Me? (70245814) **12.55** Tempest! (3830659) **1.40** Rolonda (9259272) **2.30** Agony Experience (2441456) **3.00** Live at Three (49833630) **4.05** Jerry Springer (5834123) **5.00** Super Fresco Fabulosious (37382036) **5.05** Lingo (84599611) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2445272) *6.00 I Dream of Jeannie (6511253)* **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (3109272) **7.05** Brookside (1198949) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (6117949) **8.05** Rolonda (8424494) **9.00 FILM: A Whisper Kills** (84278746) **10.55** Sex Life (3567765) **11.25-12.00** More Sex Life (7300901)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Morning **8.30** Out and About **9.00 FILM: Salam Mehemaab** **11.30** Kurukshetra **12.00** Parampara **12.30pm** Dhoop Aur Chaon ***1.00 FILM: Gang Saathi*** *4.00 ZEE Zone Presents* **4.10** BBCD **4.45** Hum Panch **5.15** Teer Kamaan **6.00** Usha Uthup Show **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Ikko Pe Ikka **7.30 FILM: Chakkar** **8.00** News and Euronews **8.35** Sailaab **9.05-12.00** Hindi **FILM: Geraftaar**

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BUSINESS

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Roger Bootle examines Clarke's 'boom'

MONDAY MARCH 17 1997

SWT to explain reduced services

By Fraser Nelson

STAGECOACH, the transport group that runs the South West Trains network, was preparing its case over the weekend as it prepared for Wednesday's meeting with the House of Commons Transport Select Committee.

Brian Cox, managing director of South West Trains, has been summoned to explain why the company has struck 39 services a day from the network's timetable over the last six weeks.

South West Trains serves the lines from Waterloo to Reading, Gatwick, Weymouth and Portsmouth among others.

He will be asked to assure ministers that the company, which is being paid £54.7 million in its first year of running the franchise, will have resolved the fiasco by the end of next month.

It was forced into the cancellations after it made 70 drivers redundant through a cost-cutting programme, leaving insufficient staff to run the trains. It cannot make up the shortfall until new drivers are familiar with every new route they will be asked to work on — a procedure that can take up to seven weeks.

Mr Cox is expected to be asked to tell the committee how much more training will be required before the service will be restored to normal level. If it fails to meet the standard set by Opraf, the rail regulator, it will be charged up to £1 million and risks losing its seven-year tenure of the franchise.

While Stagecoach has one of the highest profiles of the new rail operators, it is one of the least active. After winning the South West Trains franchise over a year ago, it failed in every other one of its bids apart from the Isle of Wight.

STEWART GOLDSTEIN

Piers and peers: Coutts and Co, the Queen's bank, opens its first office on the South Coast tomorrow in Bournemouth. Richard Horder, the branch's manager, relaxes on the beach

SFO to move over bank's black hole

By Robert Miller, banking correspondent

ROBERT WARDLE, assistant director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and the vetting officer of potential cases for investigation, will this week step up his monitoring of the £90 million "blackhole" at NatWest Markets.

The SFO, which is likely to draft in officers from the City of London fraud squad if the NatWest case is formally adopted, has yet to be given sufficient evidence by NatWest that trades in the interest rate options market by Kyriacos Papouis, the former trader, involved criminal behaviour.

There is no suggestion at present that Mr Papouis, who left NatWest Markets last December and who subsequently resigned his position at Bear Stearns, the US securities house, acted for personal gain. Therefore, the SFO is unlikely to press ahead with an investigation based on an alleged conspiracy to defraud the banking group.

If this remains the position, the SFO could be expected to launch a formal inquiry only if it emerges that the data input into the investment banking group's computers or trading books amounted to making misleading statements or false accounting.

Any final decision to take on a NatWest investigation, in what is an already overcrowded caseload, will be taken by George Staple, director of the SFO. On the civil side the NatWest affair is being jointly investigated by the Bank of England, which is the prudential supervisor of NatWest Bank and is responsible for the direct supervision London's capital markets and the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog for individual traders and their supervisors and senior managers.

NatWest's internal investigation, assisted by Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, and Linklaters & Paines, the City law firm, will this week continue to piece together the thousands of derivatives trades executed over a number of years by Kyriacos Papouis, the former trader.

Mr Papouis's girlfriend, who also works at NatWest Markets, has been sent on paid leave, although she is not thought to have played any part in the affair.

If the SFO does adopt the NatWest case an experienced in-house lawyer will be assigned to head the investigation with back-up from forensic accountants and financial investigators.

City of London Police officers are already seconded to the SFO's ongoing inquiries into the $1.8 billion Sumitomo Corporation copper scandal and the Peter Young affair at Morgan Grenfell.

Last week NatWest Markets announced that £77 million would be written off against profits from the first six months of the current financial year.

Some £5 million will come from existing provisions and a further £8 million from holding back unpaid bonuses. Of this sum Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, gave up £200,000 of his £500,000 bonus for last year. Together these sums will cover the £90 million.

But *The Times* has learnt, however, that almost all of the unpaid bonuses, except that of Mr Owen, has been clawed back from just two senior executives. These are believed to be Jean François Nguyen, head of debt derivatives, and Christophe Lanson, head of interest rate risk management, both of whom have been suspended during the inquiry.

Union to help police inquiry into pensions

By Robert Miller

A SENIOR trade union official last night offered to pass hundreds of files to Scotland Yard to assist a preliminary investigation that starts this week into the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal.

Bill Day, pensions officer for GMB, the general union, which has issued hundreds of writs through Ringrose Wharton, the Bristol law firm, on behalf of members fighting for compensation from life companies, told *The Times*: "We would be very happy to give our files to the police."

Mr Day added: "We have built up over a period of time quite a dossier which leads us to believe that much more than casual mis-selling took place. Our view is that a massive fraud has been perpetrated on the British public."

The Metropolitan Police Company Fraud Squad has opened a file on the personal pensions mis-selling scandal. However, a well-placed source at Scotland Yard said this weekend that the investigation was "in its very early days yet". For more than two years, John Edmonds, GMB general secretary, has campaigned for the Serious Fraud Office to launch an investigation.

Mike O'Brien, Shadow Economic Secretary, criticised the Government for not tackling the problem earlier and for failing to ascertain whether widescale fraud had taken place. "As a criminal lawyer I know that the longer you delay an investigation and subsequent prosecution the colder the evidence gets."

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday: "If something comes to light in the course of the work being done by the City regulators, it should be investigated by the relevant authority. But redress and compensation to the victims should be the priority."

More than 600,000 victims were wrongly advised to leave generous occupational schemes or not to join them in the first place, including police officers, nurses, firefighters, miners and public sector workers.

Howden takeover expected by City

By Fraser Nelson

HOWDEN, the Scottish engineering equipment maker, could become the subject of a takeover bid this month, City sources believe.

The company, which produces industrial fans and drilling equipment, has seen 20 million of its shares change hands in the last fortnight, five times the normal trading activity. Last week's frantic trading saw 11.5 million Howden shares traded (14 per cent of the company), including 2.24 million on Friday alone.

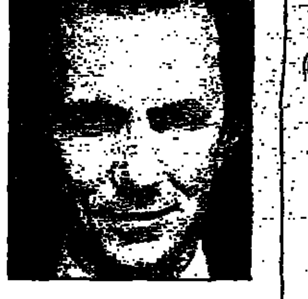
It is understood that Howden, which last October clinched a £36 million deal to supply tools to drill the longest tunnel in China, is seen as an attractive target for any company wanting to move into drilling equipment.

The engineering sector has been rife with takeover activity in recent months, with FKI's failed bid for Newman Tonks, Triplex Lloyd's failed bid for William Cook and Fairey's bid for Burnfield. Analysts forecast still more consolidation this year.

Although Howden's shares stand at a high of 83½p, they are still at a 40 per cent discount to the market. This month two of the company's directors increased their family stake.

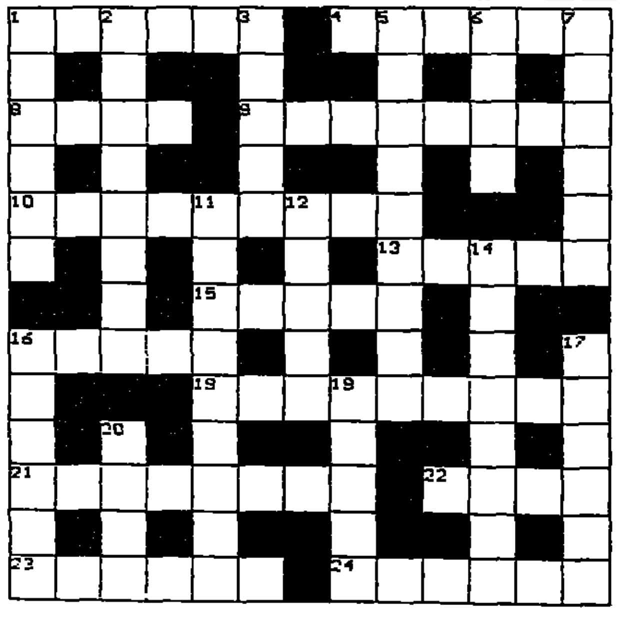
Howden last returned flat interim profits of £11.1 million, after a £600,000 hit from the the strength of sterling. It is expected to return £33.5 million for the full year to April, against the £42.9 million it made last time.

IN BUSINESS TOMORROW



ANATOLE KALETSKY examines the link between the economy and the general election

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1043

ACROSS
1 Assertion: maxim (6)
4 Self-assurance (6)
8 Glass medicine-holder (4)
9 Suicide (pilot) (8)
10 Purgation of emotions (9)
13 Track down: strap for horse (5)
15 Untrue (5)
16 Be profane: promise (5)
18 Go past (target, destination) (9)
21 Fulfilment (8)
22 Journey: stumble (4)
23 Dwell (6)
24 Obstruct: nearer the back (6)

DOWN
1 Contrivance (6)
2 Severely rebuke, punish (8)
3 Creator (5)
5 Pagan woman officiant (9)
6 By mouth (4)
7 Simple task: light wind (6)
11 Offended, insulted (9)
12 Soothing ointment (5)
14 (Vehicle) fitted with protection (8)
16 Wave-rider (6)
17 Insensible state (6)
19 Cattle-farm (US) (5)
20 Agitation (over trifles) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1042

ACROSS: 1 Test tube 5 Find 8 Balloons 9 Spar 11 Junta 12 Equerry 13 Gambit 15 Dollop 18 Synonym 19 Ample 21 Rite 22 Artifice 23 Warm 24 Jamboree

DOWN: 1 Toby jug 2 Salon 3 Two Nations 4 Bunker 6 Imperil 7 Darcy 10 Out on a limb 14 Monster 16 Precede 17 Omerta 18 Straw 20 Prior

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Chime dismisses PR merger talk

By Robert Miller

CHIME Communications, the quoted stock market vehicle of Sir Tim Bell's public relations and advertising empire, has firmly dismissed reports of a pending merger with Lord Gummer's much larger Shandwick International. The denial comes as election fever mounts.

Lord Gummer and Sir Tim, once dubbed "Margaret Thatcher's favourite PR man", are two of John Major's closest advisers and will be key behind-the-scenes figures in the forthcoming general election campaign.

The political and business contacts of the two men are legendary, but some City analysts have questioned whether they will wield as much "clout" if Labour wins the election.

Chime is in its "close reporting period" before unveiling what are expected to be increased annual profits later this month. Senior sources at the company said last night that talk of a £100 million merger between the two groups was "pure speculation". It was triggered last month when fund managers at UK Active Value, an investment company, took a near 8 per cent stake in Chime. This led to market speculation that Active Value had spotted profit potential from a merger between two leviathans of the agency business while giving the smaller Chime access to Shandwick's worldwide network of 90 offices.

Sir Tim, however, can also boast access to most heads of state around the world, including Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, who owes much of his re-election victory to Chime. The speculative froth in the PR market has been given added impetus by last month's stock market flotation of Citigate.

Brokers forecast unsettled opening

By Michael Clark, stock market correspondent

BROKERS are forecasting a shaky start to trading on the London stock market this morning, with around one in ten of the top 100 companies due to go ex dividend.

This will be the equivalent of a 22-point fall in the market's leading indicator, the FT-SE 100 index, which closed on Friday at 4,424.3. At least four of the companies going ex dividend are rated among the top ten in terms of capitalisation.

The biggest is the banking giant HSBC, which owns Midland Bank, and carries a price tag of £41 billion. The group is paying 32.5p gross (26p net), equivalent to a five-point fall in the index.

Others to go ex the dividend on Monday include BAT Industries 20p net (£17.4 billion), BTR 7p (£11.83 billion), Cadbury Schweppes 11.8p (£5.45 billion), GKN 16.9p (£3.19 billion), Glaxo 22.5p (£41.9 billion), Ladbroke Group 3.8p (£2.82) and Zeneca 22.5p (£17.8 billion).

Brokers said on Friday that even by usual standards this represents an abnormally large number of companies to go ex dividend in one day, and may prove a significant hurdle for the market to cross.

☐ Pearson, the media conglomerate, which is due to announce results today, could face a higher damages bill from its US Penguin subsidiary. The group has made a £100 million provision for accounting anomalies, but this figure could double if legal action from the American Booksellers' Association is successful. The body, which represents the US book trade, is claiming that discounts given by Pearson to early-paying bookshops discriminated against smaller sellers.

Companies, page 41

Row delays 'good news' on jobless

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

A ROW between ministers and Whitehall officials is preventing the publication of figures which show that unemployment is falling up to twice as fast as has been previously estimated.

The disclosure of the dispute comes as the Government prepares to publish the latest unemployment figures, which are also expected to show a further fall.

The publication of figures showing trends in unemployment was suspended in October after the introduction of the Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA), the replacement for unemployment benefit. However, ministers want to make public, in advance of the general election, what they believe is an accurate estimate of the trend in unemployment. They maintain that the Office of National Statistics' estimate of unemployment falling at the rate of 15,000 to 20,000 per month is wildly out of date after some large monthly falls, including the largest two declines since new records began in 1971.

The real level of decline is now thought to be as much as twice that estimate, at around 25,000 to 30,000 per month. But the statisticians are insistent that although the introduction of the JSA is having a marked impact its effect on the figures is still unclear.

Officials in the ONS, and in rival Whitehall departments, have been working on the figures, attempting to disentangle the effects of JSA, and different departments are coming up with different estimates. This means that they cannot reintroduce with confidence their estimate of the trend in unemployment, and they say they will not have a clear figure until next month. But because of the proximity to the election ministers want to see the new figures on the unemployment trend published now.

The unemployment trend figures are viewed as vital in the City, where the actual changes in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit tend to be measured against the expected trend, with markets going up or down accordingly.

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